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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Ukraine, Belorussia at NPT Review Conference

LD2108141390 Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva August 21 TASS—Representatives of the Ukraine and Belorussia today for the first time took their seats in the conference hall of the Geneva Palace of Nations where the fourth conference to review the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is now is taking place.

These representatives attend the conference as observers.

A decision on their participation in the forum was taken unanimously and without voting because both Soviet Republics are U.N. members, Osvaldo Rivera (Peru), chairman of the conference, told journalists at a meeting.

Petrovskiy Promises Cooperation With IAEA

LD2108132290 Moscow TASS in English 1234 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS Correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva August 21 TASS—The Soviet Union will significantly expand the range of nuclear facilities open to the inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which serves as a guarantor of observance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The decision covers all Soviet nuclear power stations and an additional number of research reactors.

Making this goodwill gesture, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy told the fourth conference on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in Geneva, the Soviet Union wants to promote an increase in the IAEA's efficiency and authority. Petrovskiy, who heads the Soviet delegation, said the USSR has earmarked five million roubles in national currency to fund the support programme for this international agency in 1991-92.

Petrovskiy specially stressed Soviet adherence to the strict observance of such elements of the non-proliferation regime as providing non-nuclear states with safeguards, creating nuclear-free zones in various regions and raising a reliable barrier to the dangerous spread of nuclear weapons in areas of conflict and tension.

Praises Non-Proliferation Pact

LD2108132790 Moscow TASS in English 1242 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva August 21 TASS—A Soviet deputy foreign minister has described the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a "major and authoritative multilateral document, which by right is considered as the basis for security and stability in the rapidly changing world."

Vladimir Petrovskiy is heading the Soviet delegation to the fourth conference discussing the treaty's implementation, under way here.

He told the conference that the non-profliferation regime was acquiring "special importance now that the process of eliminating nuclear arms stocks has begun".

"The breakthrough in this field, achieved by the Soviet-U.S. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty, a planned treaty on cuts in strategic offensive armaments, and the opening of real prospects for radical reductions in tactical nuclear weapons in Europe are creating a favourable situation for strengthening the non-proliferation regime, proclaimed in the 1968 treaty," Petrovskiy said.

Urges Total Nuclear Ban

LD2108143690 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris ShabayevJ]

[Text] Geneva August 21 TASS—Vladimir Petrovskiy, head of the Soviet delegation at the fourth conference on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, stressed that attainment of general agreement on a complete nuclear weapons ban remains "one of the priority goals of our country in the nuclear disarmament field".

Recalling the 18-month-long unilateral Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions, the deputy foreign minister said that Soviet nuclear test ranges have not been used since October last year.

The first half of this year, he continued, has seen a slight reduction in the American test programme. In the final analysis, the settlement of the question of nuclear tests depends on U.S. practical steps in this area.

Grinevskiy Attends European Security Meeting

LD2108203190 Moscow TASS in English 1734 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Aleksandrov]

[Text] Almeria (Spain) August 21 TASS—The outline of a new Europe and the changing nature of its military and political situation are coming to a bolder relief in kaleidoscopically changing events on the continent, said here participants in the international conference "Treaty on conventional armed forces and future structure of European security."

The conference ended in the Spanish city of Almeria and was sponsored by Madrid Complutense University. Speakers noted that military confrontation is yielding way to a dialogue.

New forms of Europe's more secure and stable setup are being developed in discussions and through contacts between representatives of various countries and political organizations.

The conference was attended by members of the Soviet and American delegations at the Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe, representatives of the NATO Command and experts, specialists in international affairs from France, Italy and West Germany and high-ranking officials from the Spanish foreign and defence ministries.

"We believe it is possible to complete drafting a treaty on conventional armed forces before the forthcoming CSCE summit in Paris in November where it is planned to sign it," said ambassador at large Oleg Grinevskiy, head of the Soviet delegation at the Vienna talks.

Participants in the talks have come to agreement on three out of five arms categories, agreed over 30 per cent of the treaty text, 50 per cent of the text of a protocol on inspections and many parts in other documents.

The sides have to exert efforts to cover the remaining part of the road, Grinevskiy emphasized.

Flawed Arms Control Reporting Criticized

90UM0856A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Aug 90 First Edition p 3

[Article by G. Khromov, member of the Soviet delegation on nuclear and space weapons negotiations in Geneva: "Militant Incompetence; Concerning Weapons Reductions and Certain Soviet Press Articles"]

[Text] Soon after the Soviet-American Treaty on Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles went into effect, articles began to appear in a number of press organs with criticisms of its individual provisions and "recommendations" as to what the approach should be in the preparation of new agreements concerning weapons limitations, first and foremost the treaty on SOA [Strategic Offensive Arms]. Articles of this kind continue to be published now as well. But the newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, with its own views on this score, formulated an appeal to the 28th CPSU Congress.

In assessing these materials, it must be observed that as a rule they are prepared without the required knowledge of the subject. At the same time their authors, and the mass media organs in which they are published, confuse the reader, and the proposed recommendations are far from objective reality.

Facts? Unfortunately, as many as you want. Thus, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI asserts that mobile launchers for medium-range Soviet missiles are eliminated by means of an explosion. But this does not correspond to reality, it is not provided for in the treaty, and contradicts it.

The statement that the medium-range missiles themselves are blown up entirely (RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA) also requires clarification. Only 65 percent of these missiles are destroyed by means of an explosion. But before this, the most complex and expensive elements are removed—guidance system apparatuses, for example. Moreover, the explosion itself as a method of eliminating missile parts is selected based on the need for economy of means and not regardless of it, as some newspapers write.

In selecting the methods of destruction, besides economic considerations many other considerations were taken into account: the periods of elimination—all shorter-range missiles were to be destroyed in 1.5 years, and intermediate-range in three years; the workload of the production capacity; transportation difficulties; inspection complications, and ecological requirements. And a lot has to be paid for all of this.

Incidentally, with respect to ecological problems there is either especially a lot of confusion or there is intentional distortion. Thus, in comparing methods of missile elimination, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA wrote: "Those same very valuable chemical compounds that the Americans transform into hard currency, we risk turning into components that are lethal for the environment." But in actual fact the chemical compounds that are released into the air both through the elimination of Soviet missiles by means of explosion and by American missiles burning fuel are practically the same.

We should dwell especially on the "recommendations" applicable to the future SOA treaty.

This treaty deals with a reduction in intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM), and heavy bombers (HB). Together with missiles, their launchers must also be reduced. The reductions must be implemented in the course of seven years after the treaty goes into force—by the years 1997-1998.

The operational life of strategic arms are assessed to be 10-15 years (with the exception of nuclear submarines, whose period is 25-30 years). Considering that the SOA negotiations have been going on for a long time, it can be asserted that, under the reduction, those equipment models that have virtually "served their time" will be "surrendered" under the reduction first of all. Naturally, they will not be replaced by new ones.

So the authors' recommendations that we are talking about demand, in a categorical way, the utilization for satellite launches of missiles removed

Further, it is difficult to imagine the possibility of reequipping a heavy bomber—the most ecologically "dirty" aircraft—in a laboratory for monitoring the cleanliness of the environment. Indeed, this is not in any way economically expedient, either from the standpoint of fuel consumption or from the standpoint of surplus lift capacity. In addition, we are not really faced yet with the real task of eliminating bombers. We have less of them than the number agreed to in the draft treaty. Consequently, our heavy bombers will be removed from operation only after the full completion of their service life, and when flying them will no longer be permissible.

I will note also that design elaborations and economic estimates of the possibility of employing nuclear submarines as platforms for the launch of research rockets from various points of the world's oceans have not yet produced positive results. Especially as the question here also is about nuclear submarines that have reached the end of their designed service life.

It is probably time for all of us to become competently and professionally involved with our own work and not to be carried away by proposals of the composers of versions of economic reform, proposals of former party workers to restructure bank affairs, and proposals of literary figures to reequip ICBM launch silos into plants for the elimination of chemical weapons (such launch facilities have limited dimensions and are located most frequently in the kinds of places that do not pertain to the specific features of such work.

I will note in conclusion that quite a few articles also appear in the American press about agreements on limiting and reducing weapons. Special attention is being given to the future SOA treaty. Opinions are sometimes polarized, but, as a rule, they should not be recognized as unqualified or amateurish. The authors of these articles—Smith, Gordon, Bert, and other journalists—not only themselves analyze in detail that which was published before, but they consult with representatives of the administration and with independent experts.

It is not clear why some organs of the Soviet press, including the leading ones, do not work according to such a plan. We would only gain from this effort.

Petrovskiy Cited on Non-Proliferation Review

PM2208093790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Article by own special correspondent Yu. Kovalenko, incorporating interview with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy, head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva nonproliferation review conference: "Geneva: Discussion on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] An international conference examining the operation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which came into force in 1970, has opened at Geneva's Palais des Nations. Delegates from around 140 countries are taking part in its work. Representatives of China, France, Israel, South Africa, and a number of other states which are not signatories to this agreement have come to such a meeting for the first time as observers.

The conference will sum up the results of the operation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons over the last five years. It will also make a preliminary examination of questions concerning the future of the treaty, which expires in 1995. The achievement of an accord either prolonging it or making it of unlimited duration is therefore essential.

"This treaty," USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy, head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva conference, stated in conversation with your conversation, "is a major multilateral agreement limiting nuclear weapons spatially in a 'horizontal direction,' so to speak. We consider the international system of nonproliferation formed on its foundation as a very important factor in world security and stability."

At the present conference—the fourth to date—the minister went on to observe, is taking place for the first time in conditions where real movement toward nuclear disarmament has gotten under way. The task now is to ensure that, on the one hand, the reduction of stockpiles continues, proceeding "vertically," while, on the other, ensuring that the treaty is made universal in nature.

Today, three of the five nuclear powers—the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain—are party to the treaty, while the other two—China and France—have not subscribed to it. The so-called "near-nuclear" countries—South Africa, Israel, India, Pakistan, Brazil, Argentina, and a number of other countries—still remain outside the treaty framework.

Summing up the results of the treaty's 20-year-long operation, the Soviet deputy foreign minister particularly stressed that the treaty has met its objectives. The number of nuclear states has remained unchanged, whereas certain politicians predicted that it would increase several times over.

Another important feature, in V.F. Petrovskiy's opinion, is that the treaty in many respects heralded an approach to the world's problems based on international law. And in the past, during the most tense moments in the history of Soviet-American relations, it remained a thread connecting the two countries and served as a mechanism for consultations between Washington and Moscow.

The agreement, the deputy minister pointed out, is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation system. However, it has been substantially augmented by regional treaties setting up nuclear-free zones in Latin America and the southern Pacific and also—de facto—in the Antarctic and outer space. The Soviet Union supports initiatives to form nuclear-free zones in individual regions of Europe, the Mediterranean, the Near East, Africa, and Southeast Asia and advocates nuclear-free status for the Baltic Sea.

The activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] serves as an essential component in maintaining and strengthening the non-proliferation regime, stressed V.F. Petrovskiy.

An optimistic approach prevailed during the preparation of the Geneva forum and it seemed that the conference was "bound to succeed." However, the recent events in the Persian Gulf zone could have the most direct influence on its results. Iraq's aggression against Kuwait will considerably complicate the conference's task—this is the conclusion just reached by a group of experts brought together by the American Arms Control Association.

Pessimistic notes are now being heard increasingly clear. Thus, for example, Leonard Spector of the Carnegie Endowment, a well-known specialist on questions of nuclear weapons non-proliferation, has in many respects dashed hopes for the meeting's success. He assumes that Iraq will raise the question of Kuwait's representation at the conference and thereby provoke sharp argument. Finally, Baghdad could state its intention to withdraw from the treaty. Such a step would further aggravate the international community's concern over Iraq's plans to possess nuclear weapons (given that it recently tried to acquire the necessary materials). However, Spector thinks that Baghdad needs another 10 years to set up their production.

There are other problems too which could hamper the participants at the Geneva forum in reaching consensus. Ben Sanders, general secretary at the previous treaty review conference (1985), cited Pyongyang's nuclear program as one of them. Serious misgivings were also voiced on this score by other figures. Although the DPRK signed the non-proliferation treaty five years ago, it refuses to authorize IAEA representatives to inspect facilities where nuclear research is carried out. And this is in breach of the agreement.

By all appearances, debates are going to develop on the participation in the conference as observers of representatives of Israel, the state of Palestine, and South Africa. All the indications are that Pretoria, which specialists consider capable of producing nuclear weapons in small quantities, will sign the treaty shortly.

The whole range of questions connected with nuclear weapons will be touched on—to some degree or another—at the Geneva conference. Many politicians in the West describe our program of achieving a nuclear-free world as "unrealistic" and "utopian" and regard it, to put it in our own terms, as "manilovshchina" [after Manilov, daydreaming, feckless character in Gogol's "Dead Souls"]. Nuclear weapons, they never cease repeating on the banks of the Seine, serve as a deterrent to a potential aggressor. It seems that no one objects to the most radical cuts in nuclear weapons arsenals, but that in the process Paris and London do not intend to give up their "bomb" in the visible future.

So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, V.F. Petrovskiy said, it remains true to the ideal of a nuclear-free world and advocates the gradual overcoming of the "doctrine of nuclear deterrence." However, we do appreciate, he observed, that it will not be possible to do away with nuclear weapons immediately. Therefore the question of achieving an accord on minimal deterrence arises at the present time. How should it be expressed in numerical terms? It is difficult to answer that. Some specialists propose retaining 5 percent of the current Soviet and American nuclear stocks, which, it seems, will roughly correspond to the present-day level of French nuclear forces.

One of the Soviet Union's main aims, V.F. Petrovskiy recalls, remains the speediest banning of nuclear tests. Not so long ago, over a period of 18 months from August 1985 through February 1987, Moscow observed a unilateral moratorium. And again, since November 1989, our nuclear ranges have been inactive. The United States has also cut back on its nuclear tests.

Washington and Paris stress that such tests are essential to them for monitoring the effectiveness of stocks and their combat readiness, as well as for improving the technology. Therefore the West turns down all our relevant initiatives. In such conditions, V.F. Petrovskiy admits, the solution of the problem of banning nuclear tests is scarcely possible at the moment. But progress in the sphere of limiting the yield of nuclear explosions and reducing their number is completely realistic.

Media Cover Gremitskikh's 21 Aug Briefing

Soviet Position on Iraq

LD2108130390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1219 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug—TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev report from the USSR Foreign Ministry press center.

At a briefing today Yuriy Gremitskikh, first deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, noted the inaccuracy of reports by "some mass information media," which alleged that the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman had declared the Soviet Union is ready to send its troops into the Persian Gulf zone, if the relevant UN Security Council decision is adopted.

"I must say," Yuriy Gremitskikh said, "that those Western media were inaccurately quoting the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman. The fact is," the Soviet diplomat said, "that in answering a BBC Television question about whether the Soviet Union wants the United Nations to send a multinational force to the Persian Gulf area, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said:

"The UN Security Council could, evidently, discuss this question too and make a corresponding decision. I do not wish to speak here for the Security Council. Meanwhile we are more in favor of ensuring the effectiveness of the political measures which have been adopted, but we are also participating in the discussion of questions within the framework of the Military Staff Committee. Let us see. Let us not push the course of events."

Saddam's 'Readiness' Discussed

LD2108132890 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The Soviet Union draws attention to "the readiness being expressed by the Iraqi leadership to resolve the present crisis in the Gulf diplomatically," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh told a briefing here today when asked about the Soviet attitude to the latest suggestions from Saddam Husayn.

In this connection he recalled that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in an interview published in the Soviet press today, pointed out that those suggestions contained "noteworthy elements."

"Apparently, Iraq's readiness for the security of Saudi Arabia to be ensured by a multinational force on the strength of an appropriate U.N. resolution deserves attention," Gremitsikh said.

"At the same time we cannot but note that the [word indistinct] cause of the crisis—the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq—has been left aside. The fact that our experts are studying the latest proposals from the Iraqi side, and not rejected them out of hand," accords with our common policy of not turning down initiatives from any side without studying and evaluating them thoroughly."

Final Evacuation From Kuwait

LD2108125690 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—A special Soviet interdepartmental working group led by Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov has begun the final stage of the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Kuwait, a USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS today.

The third, largest group of evacuees from Kuwait, numbering 351 people, are to arrive in Moscow this afternoon by two Aeroflot flights on Tu-154 and Il-86 planes.

The last 180 Soviet specialists remaining in Kuwait were to leave for Baghdad this morning. Their flight to Moscow from Amman will follow an over 2,000 kilometer drive from Kuwait.

Preparations are under way for the evacuation of wives and children of Soviet specialists based in Iraq. The evacuation will begin after all Soviet citizens who worked in Kuwait are back in the Soviet Union, the spokesman said.

As before, the Soviet side is receiving all necessary assistance from Iraqi representatives who show "a compassionate attitude towards the Soviet citizens," the spokesman remarked.

Evacuees Due To Leave 24 Aug

LD2108145390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug—TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev report from the USSR Foriegn Ministry press center:

The flight to Moscow of the fourth and last group of Soviet specialists and members of their families being evacuated from Kuwait is planned for 24 August. This was reported at a briefing today by Yuriy Gremitskikh, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Department.

According to information received by the USSR Foreign Ministry from the Soviet Embassy in Iraq, Yuriy Gremitskikh said, the group, made up of staff of Soviet establishments abroad, members of their families, and also specialists, is to arrive in Baghdad tonight. It is planned that after the people have rested for one day, a motor convoy taking the evacuees will head for the

Iraq-Jordan border, and arrive at the Iraqi border crossing control post on the evening of 23 August.

The third group of Soviet citizens evacuated from Kuwait, numbering 351 people, is to arrive at Moscow's Sheremtyevo-1 Airport on two Aeroflot aircraft this afternoon.

Ryzhkov-Hammadi Meeting

LD2108131990 Moscow TASS in English 1247 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—A meeting between Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, a member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, has begun in Moscow. Hammadi arrived here on Monday on a two-day visit as a special representative of the Iraqi leadership. Yuriy Gremitskikh, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, told a briefing here today.

Gremitskikh recalled that Hammadi on Monday met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. He also said the Iraqi envoy had been holding talks, both on Monday and today, with Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov, who heads a special working interdepartmental group dealing with the evacuation of Soviet nationals from Kuwait.

Relations With Kuwait

LD2108143290 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1340 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug—TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev report from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center:

The Soviet Government does not exclude the possibility of evacuating the Soviet Embassy staff from Kuwait at any moment, under "certain circumstances."

Answering a question on what will happen to the USSR Embassy in Kuwait, Yuriy Gremitskikh, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Department, who was holding a briefing today, said that in a preliminary way he could say the following:

"Together with other states we do not recognize Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and we continue to regard Kuwait as an independent, sovereign state. We continue to maintain diplomatic relations with it. It is not excluded that certain circumstances may compel us, like other countries, to evacuate the staff of our embassy (perhaps the entire staff) from Kuwait. This would in effect mean that our embassy would cease to function. But of course, in terms of international law, it will not have disappeared but will continue to exist."

At the same time the Soviet diplomat pointed out that he does not as yet know "whether there will be any special USSR Foreign Ministry statement on this."

The USSR Foreign Ministry statement added to this that the Kuwaiti Embassy continues to function in Moscow and regular contacts are maintained with the ambassador of that country. Furthermore, he pointed out that diplomatic and political contacts are being maintained with the government of Kuwait through various other channels.

In answer to a second question, the diplomat said that the group of Soviet citizens evacuated from Kuwait which is arriving in Moscow today includes embassy staff, but "not, he thinks, all of them."

Hijacking to Pakistan

LD2108133490 Moscow TASS in English 1309 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The Soviet side expressed "sincere gratitude to the Pakistani leadership for giving help and assistance to the crew and passengers of a Soviet aircraft hijacked by gunmen on August 19, as well as for taking necessary measures to have them returned home."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh, who made this statement at a briefing here today, said the USSR considered Islamabad's actions "a highly humane act by the Pakistani side."

"Moscow expresses hope that the criminals will be returned to face Soviet justice," he continued. Gremitskikh pointed to the drama of the situation, as hijackers face long imprisonment under Soviet laws and the death penalty under the legislation of Pakistan and some other countries.

Commenting on the latest reports that Pakistani authorities intend to extradite the hijackers to the Soviet Union, Gremitskikh said: "Let's hope that it will be so. Such crimes must be punished everywhere."

UN Thanked for Chernobyl Aid

LD2108145890 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The USSR expressed gratitude to the committee of U.N. Secretariat staff members on aid to Chernobyl disaster victims for the recent transfer of polyvitamins to children living in the disaster striken areas of Belorussia, the Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

"The USSR is deeply satisifed with all manifestations of goodwill and care of the international community for Chernobyl accident victims," said Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh.

"These specific efforts lay down the foundation for broad cooperation inside and outside the United Nations system to mobilise various international support for measures in this sphere," he stressed.

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees

LD2108192690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The problem of returning millions of Afghan refugees to their homeland of has become difficult to solve because of the counteractions of the armed Afghan opposition and certain circles in Pakistan. Here is what was said about this at a routine meeting with Soviet and foreign journalists by Gremitskikh, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Directorate of Information.

[Begin Gremitskikh recording] The coming into force at the end of July of the UN draft for the repatriation of Afghans from Pakistan was expected to considerably increase the number of Afghans returning to their homeland. The refugees themselves received the draft with enthusiasm, as was demonstrated by rallies supporting it in a number of camps. However, according to competent organs of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Afghan opposition tied to the Pakistani special services adopted active measures to cut short the repatriation of Afghan refugees. [passage omitted]

Afghan fighters for the faith and the Pakistani special services are depriving the Afghan refugees of the sacred right of having a homeland, and the UN plan for their repatriation is in danger of being wrecked. [end recording]

U.S. Senators' Visit

LD2108163590 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a Moscow briefing here today that a delegation of U.S. senators arrived in the Soviet Union on August 19 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee on Agriculture and Food Issues. The delegation consists of Senators Patrick Leahy, Alan Cranston and Robert Graham.

Yuriy Gremitskikh said the visit, to last until August 24, will include talks at the Supreme Soviet and the government commission on food and procurements, a visit to the Moscow City Council. The senators are due to visit the Grodno Region on August 21-23 and Leningrad on August 23-24.

Today the senators were received by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov. They discussed the principles of partnership, including issues connected with Soviet and U.S. procedures for ratifying the threshold test ban treaty and the peaceful nuclear explosions treaty. They also raised other problems of military-political character. Special attention was paid to discussion of work on the Soviet-U.S. treaty on a 50 per cent cut in strategic offensive weapons.

Gremitskikh said other issues under discussion were regional problems, including the situation in the Persian Gulf.

IZVESTIYA Summary

PM2108175990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent G. Charodeyev from USSR Foreign Ministry press center: "Evacuation of Soviet Citizens Coming to End"]

[Text] The regular briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists was addressed by Yu. Gremitskikh, first deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration. He reported that the operation to evacuate Soviet citizens from Kuwait is drawing to a close. The departure of the remaining 166 people—staffers of Soviet foreign establishments and specialists—for Baghdad is scheduled for 21 August. After Soviet citizens have been evacuated from Kuwait it is planned to start removing Soviets from Iraq.

The spokesman said that the first joint meeting of ambassadors and military representatives of states belonging to the Military Staff Committee [MSC] (USSR, United States, PRC, Britain, and France) had been held in New York in development of Soviet proposals supported by the other permanent members of the Security Council. We have been encouraged by the results of the meeting and hope that the accords reached there will make it possible to start up the MSC machinery which, it is our conviction, will be able to play a useful role in connection with the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

"The Soviet Union, together with all the other UN Security Council members, voted in favor of Resolution 664, which contains the demand that Iraq allow the immediate departure of citizens of third countries from Kuwait and Iraq and stresses of the the need to ensure their safety. We are bound to share the concern of citizens of several countries who find themselves in this situation. This problem must be most rapidly resolved in accordance with the basic norms of international law and the principles of humanity and respect for human rights. For our part we will continue to do our utmost to those ends..."

Gremitskikh commented in detail on President George Bush's decision to lift restrictions on the total number of Soviet trade and economic officials in the United States.

"As is well known," he stressed, "the quota for the personnel of Soviet official missions engaged in commercial activity in the United States was introduced in February 1980 in connection with Afghanistan. The offices of Aeroflot, Sovfrakht, Inturist, Traktoreksport, and the Foreign Economic Bank, the 'Amtorg,' 'Belarus Machinery,' and 'Kompaniya po Morskim Resursam' companies, and certain others fall within this category of establishments. We welcome this sensible step by the American side. It is aimed at removing obstacles in the sphere of trade and economic ties between our countries. There is no doubt that this decision also reflects the positive trends developing in Soviet-U.S. relations as a whole. Our business circles assess this positive act by the U.S. Administration at its true worth. An important feature is that it looks ahead and stems from the ongoing development of Soviet-U.S. economic ties, that is to say, forms part and parcel of the political directives of Malta and Washington.

"The U.S. Administration's decision, as you know, stipulates a number of conditions, which clearly requires additional discussion and clarification. In particular, we get the impression that Soviet state trade and economic establishments in the United States could find themselves on unequal terms in comparison with Soviet nonstate organizations.

"I would like to remind people that the Soviet side has never introduced any restrictions on the number of U.S. businessmen in the USSR, in the same way that it has not singled them out by creating a less favorable status or conditions of residence, as exists for the time being in regard to Soviet trade and economic officials in the United States.

"The USSR is also concerned that no activity detrimental to our security should arise as a consequence of expanding contacts among Soviet and U.S. business people. It has to be said that we do have grounds for such concern. At the same time you get the impression that, in focusing attention on this question, it's as if the U.S. side were reserving itself the right to scale down our trade and economic ties on a 'plausible' pretext at some stage. I would like to hope, however, that this impression is mistaken."

Embassy Officials Discuss Emigrant Applications

PM2108113590 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 90 p 4

[Interviews with Robert Sorenson, representative of the U.S. Embassy Consular Department, and Brett Bartos, staffer of the New Zealand Embassy in the Soviet Union, by St. Kucher; dates and places not given; published under the rubric "Reporter Investigates": "Embargo on Mechanic"]

[Text] "Oh, these emigrants," they sigh in the embassies of the United States and New Zealand.

[Kucher] How many people have applied to emigrate to the United States this year?

Bob Sorenson, a representative of the U.S. Embassy Consular Department, thought for a moment:

[Sorenson] I do not think we have a precise figure. But there are approximately 400,000 applicants registered with the embassy. The figure will possibly top the half-million mark in the near future.

[Kucher] How many of them are going to be among the "lucky ones"?

[Sorenson] Following consultations with President Bush last year, an immigration quota of 50,000 has been established, but that is for refugees. A total of 52,000 people left the Soviet Union for the United States in the period between October 1988 and September 1989. As far as this year is concerned, preliminary estimates show that we will be able to accept 60,000 people.

[Kucher] How long does an applicant have to wait for the final decision?

[Sorenson] That depends on various circumstances. Usually, once he has submitted his application, a person with a close relative in the United States has to wait for at least a year. And that is only for the interview.

[Kucher] Is there a definite quota for people who do not have relatives in the United States?

[Sorenson] Yes, approximately 10 percent of the total number of emigrants. This quota is mainly filled by people of special interest to us: Political figures persecuted for their views and requesting political asylum, for example. I should point out that these people are decreasing in number with the development of democracy in the Soviet Union.

[Kucher] Does your embassy's Consular Department have any complaints about our Visa and Registration Department?

[Sorenson] Yes, it does. This organization has been promising us for two years that it will implement international agreements on human rights which bear the signature of the Soviet Union. The Helsinki documents and UN declarations state that a person may freely leave his country and, which is equally important, freely return to his country. There are usually no problems with the Visa and Registration Department if a potential emigrant has a close relative in the United States. But if he does not... Many Soviet Jews and Christians who obtain our permission to enter the United States are forced to be content with Israeli visas. Why all this fooling around, one asks? It seems to be an example of the old thinking. On the whole, we are disappointed with the Visa and Registration Department. When all is said and done, you do, after all, have a draft law on emigration but it has been left to gather dust for two years now...

[Kucher] Are embassy staff offered bribes?

[Sorenson] I cannot speak for anyone else, but I personally have been offered bribes more than once. Once, a woman who looked like an Armenian Jew and who spoke Russian badly took me to one side and said: "There is no gold anywhere but our family still has some..." Why, one asks oneself, do people like that want to leave? [Sorenson ends]

[Text] "Who would have thought that anyone would be interested in a tiny country like ours?" Brett Bartos, staffer of the New Zealand Embassy in the Soviet Union, was surprised at first. "However... In September-December last year we really were inundated with Soviet people. It was exactly at that time that a quota was set for emigration to the United States. Matters reached the point where as many as 400 people were gathering outside our doors every day."

[Kucher] But surely you are seeing far fewer people now?

[Bartos] Yes, in March the number of applications to the embassy fell to 100 a day, and now we get enquiries from no more than 20-30 people each day. How have we managed to do this? It is very simple: We have displayed a notice outside which makes it quite clear who can hope to secure permanent residence in New Zealand. So there are three channels through which you can emigrate to our country. The first is based on close family ties (those wishing to emigrate must have a mother, father, brother, or sister already living in New Zealand). The second requires would-be emigrants to have certain skills, abilities, and education. Our country is currently experiencing a shortage of specialists in computer programming, teachers, and doctors—in short, people engaged in intellectual work. Unfortunately, we do not need mechanics and carpenters. And, finally, under the third condition people working in business and with some capital of their own may emigrate to our country—they would be able to make a definite contribution to the development of our economy. Moreover, it is desirable that applicants be no older than 45.

[Kucher] How many people will be emigrating to New Zealand this year?

[Bartos] So far we have given permission for one woman, a mother, to emigrate to our country: She has a son living in New Zealand. But we are also processing applications from 30 Jewish families who have been invited and are supported in their application by the Jewish community of New Zealand.

United States & Canada

Canada Lifts Restraints on Exports to USSR

PM1908161090 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Canada-USSR. Barriers Removed"]

[Text] Canada has adopted measures that extend trade opportunities with the Soviet Union and East European countries.

Foreign Minister Joseph Clark and International Trade Minister John Crosby announced in a joint statement that the list of goods which Canadian companies must have special permission to export, is being reduced by 40 percent. The ban on sales of the majority of personal computers, telecommunications equipment, and other goods that are manufactured with the use of complex technology, has been lifted.

As the statement notes, "The aim of the changes is to promote the expansion of trade between the Soviet Union and East Europe" and give Canadian business the opportunity for more active "participation in the reconstruction process which is now taking place in that region."

Bush Ends Restrictions on Entry of Businessmen

PM2108141190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 6

[Unattributed report under the rubric "IZVESTIYA Teletype Room, Tuesday": "Decision Adopted"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has decided to lift the restrictions on entry into and movement within the United States which extended until recently to Soviet businessmen. These restrictions primarily concerned the number of businessmen from the USSR allowed to visit the United States.

In a communique circulated in Washington the President notes, "This step was taken with a view to building more fruitful economic relations with the Soviet Union." At the same time Bush said that the United States reserves the right to review this decision if the USSR uses these rights to obtain intelligence information.

Supreme Soviet Member, Senators Discuss Ties

LD2108195390 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—Soviet-U.S. relations, gradually freeing themselves from accretions of the past, call for developing mutually advantageous cooperation in various fields, this idea keynoted today's meeting between Rafik Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and a group of U.S. senators.

The guests were briefed on the current stage of radical transformations, carried out in the process of perestroyka, and preparations for a transition to market relations.

Nishanov dwelled in detail on the issues of national and state set-up and international relations. The senators were briefed on work to draft a Union treaty laying down fundamentally new relations between the central government and republics.

The interlocutors raised several bilateral issues. They stressed that the Soviet Union and the U.S. have huge reserves to expand them, including in the field of processing and light industry.

The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Jack Matlock.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Opposition Seeks 'Rethinking' of Ties

LD2108153590 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Tokyo August 21 TASS—The Japanese Government should be more flexible towards economic cooperation with the USSR and ditch the old principle of "unity of policy and economics" in settling territorial issues, leader of the influential Japanese opposition party Komeito said in the town of Kanazawa on Monday.

Koshiro Ishida effectively called for rethinking the fundamental principle of Japanese diplomacy viz-a-viz the Soviet Union, a principle which official Tokyo insists on, stressing that the return of the "northern islands" is an inalienable condition for extending economic relations. Moreover, Ishida noted that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu recently had begun to change his position with regard to this principle.

He expressed the view that if former secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party Shintaro Abe, current leader Ichiro Ozawa and other party leaders make these compromise statements during their forthcoming visits to Moscow, the situation may change.

Speaking about specific measures to develop bilateral trade and economic relations, Ishida said the two countries could begin exploring the resources of the Arctic Ocean or embark on a course towards all-round cooperation, which could lead to an appreciable change in Japanese-Soviet relations.

The clean government party, as Komeito is known, favors closer Soviet-Japanese relations. It criticised Japan's negative stand at the Houston meeting of seven industrialized nations, which stood out among Western partners for its negative attitude to giving direct aid to the USSR.

Pointing to the lessening of "Soviet military threat", the party leadership demands that the Japanese Government drastically change its defence policy, freeze defence spending and rethink the new programme of military development.

At his recent meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, the chairman of the political and religious organisation Soka Gakkai, on whose basis Komeito was set up, also favoured the all-round development of Soviet-Japanese relations.

USSR Appoints New Ambassador to Japan

LD2108095990 Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The Soviet Union has appointed Lyudvig Chizhov its new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Japan.

Chizhov was born in 1936. He entered the diplomatic service in 1960 after graduating from Moscow's Institute of Foreign Relations.

He held various posts at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo and from 1987 served as chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Pacific and Southeast Asian Department. Chizhov has the diplomatic rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

Chizhov will replace Nikolay Solovyev who has been given another post.

Korean Unity Supported on Anniversary

90UF0462A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by A. Golts: "View From Mt. Moranbong"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 14 August—The old ones maintain that there is no better place to see Pyongyang than Mt. Moranbong. From there, its summit, an impressive panorama of the streets and squares of the DPRK capital unfolds: multistory tower buildings neighbor at first sight fragile structures whose multistage roofs are reminiscent of the national architectural style. Wide highways are crisscrossed by avenues of plane trees and poplars.

In a word, a vista of a thriving handsome city opens up from Mt. Moranbong. And for us Soviet people it is particularly symbolic that it is here, on a slope, that a 30-meter obelisk with a red star—the Liberation Monument—rises up. "Eternal glory to the great Soviet Army which liberated the Korean people from the yoke of the Japanese imperialists and opened to them the way to freedom and independence," we read on its pedestal.

Yes, a new page in the life of the Korean people began 45 years ago. At that time formations of the 25th Army of the first Far East front with the support of forces of the Pacific Fleet smashed the Japanese troops in Korea and liberated the ancient country from a colonial slavery of almost four decades.

This is why 15 August is one of the DPRK's principal holidays. This is why today the number "45" is encountered on every Pyongyang street. This is why Soviet people who have come to the DPRK for the celebration of this important anniversary in the history of both countries are surrounded with such sincere cordiality. We have seen how warmly Koreans have greeted the delegation of the Soviet War Veterans Committee. Nor will the Soviet Pacific Fleet sailors forget yesterday's meeting with the inhabitants of Wonsan. Despite the heavy rain, the whole city, it seemed, poured out onto the quayside when the large antisubmarine warfare vessel "Marshal Shaposhnikov" and the "Poryvistyy" patrol escort appeared in the roads.

The idea that the exploit of our fighting men is etched forever in Koreans' grateful memory was emphasized by General of the Army Kwang Choe, chief of the Korean People's Army General Staff, as he received today the delegations of the Soviet Armed Forces and war veterans.

At a mass meeting devoted to the anniversary of liberation held today in the Palace of People's Culture, the speakers spoke of the traditions of friendship laid between the two countries 45 years ago. Koreans remember not only the Soviet soldier-liberator but also the soldier-builder. After all, our soldiers did everything possible to help the population establish a normal life immediately following the victorious battles. And it is not fortuitous that a letter at the end of the 1940's to the Soviet Government signed by 17 million Koreans says that the glorious exploits of the Soviet Army "will live forever in the monuments which we have erected, in the smokestacks of the plants and factories restored with the aid of the Soviet Union, and in the golden waves of our grain."

And today other symbols of our friendship have also arisen in Korean cities alongside the obelisks to the Soviet soldiers. These include the heat and electric power plant and weaving works in Pyongyang, the Supung Hydroelectric Power Plant, the Kiyang Mineral Fertilizer Works, and the Chongjin Foundry. Over 70 facilities, which manufacture more than one-fourth of the country's industrial product, have been installed in the DPRK with the help of the USSR.

For this reason people at the meeting in Pyongyang spoke not only about the past; they spoke about the extensive prospects of the development of our countries' friendly relations. Of course, there was talk also of the problem which is the most acute today for each Korean. A single country and a single people have been divided for many decades. It was emphasized that the DPRK knows of the consistent position of the Soviet Union, which supports the country's aspiration to unification of the homeland on a peaceful democratic basis. Indeed, the DPRK's aspiration to have done with the military confrontation on the peninsula, an appreciable reduction in the Armed Forces of North and South, the withdrawal of foreign forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, and the conversion of the whole of Korean territory into a nuclear-free zone of peace has met with invariable approval in the Soviet Union.

It is now, when the international climate is changing for the better, that an opportunity has emerged also for a settlement of the chronic conflict in Korea. Soviet people received as promising news the announcements that the DPRK and South Korea had decided to begin negotiations at prime ministerial level. And at their center will be questions of a lessening of the military and political tension and the establishment of diverse exchange between North and South. Particular interest is evoked by the DPRK's new initiative on opening, as of 15 August, the northern part of Panmunjom, the demilitarized zone area, for contacts with compatriots from South Korea, and on holding a national conference in this location on unification of the homeland.

Of course, dialogue between North and South is not developing all that easily as yet. The mutual mistrust built up over the decades is a hindrance. But this dialogue continues. And, who knows, perhaps 15 August will for a second time begin a new page in the life of the Korean people.

When one stands on Mt. Moranbong and sees handsome Pyongyang, one very much wants the people who live on this land to be happy.

Near East & South Asia

Iraqi Deputy Premier Continues Moscow Visit

Meets Belousov on Evacuation

LD2108143890 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1332 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug (TASS)—On 20-21 August, Igor Belousov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, is the head of an interdepartmental working group set up on the USSR president's instruction for matters connected with the crisis situation in the Persian Gulf and the evacuation of Soviet citizens from the area. He held talks with Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister of Iraq and special representative of the Iraqi leadership.

They set forth their points of view on the situation in the Persian Gulf. In light of the special resolutions adopted by the Security Council they held a detailed discussion of a number of major issues connected to Soviet-Iraqi relations in various areas.

The Soviet side focused a great deal of attention during the talks on concrete matters linked to the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Kuwait and of women and children from Iraq. The Soviet side thanked the Iraqi Government for its cooperation in this matter and voiced the urgent desire for the Iraqi authorities to open up additional means of evacuation and stressed the need to ensure the safety of the Soviet people being evacuated or remaining in those countries and equally that of other countries' citizens and to create the appropriate conditions for protecting their rights and interests.

S. Hammadi provided information on the Iraqi Government's position regarding foreigners' departure from Kuwait and Iraq and on measures being taken to cooperate in the evacuation of Soviet citizens.

Shevardnadze, Hammadi Share Aims

LD2108160690 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, has met in Moscow with the deputy premier of Iraq, Sa'dun Hammadi. Radio Moscow's Yuriy Solton has this comment:

The two officials held consultations rather than talks on the situation in the Persian Gulf. Significantly, the relevant initiative had been advanced by Iraq, with Moscow, eager to look for ways to settle the Gulf conflict peacefully, supporting the idea readily. That does not signal any change in the Soviet Union's political since this country is firmly committed to the Security Council resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of that Arab country's sovereignty. That was a point that Mr. Shevardnadze made clear to the Iraqi representative at the outset. He stated the use of force with the aim of redrawing state borders, the more so annexing another country, was fraught with a dangerous chain reaction in the entire world community and therefore was impermissible. The chief task of today, and that, too, was a topic for discussion during the Shevardnadze-Hammadi meeting, was to prevent a local armed conflict from growing into a fully-fledged war that would lead to unpredictable consequences for the region and the whole world.

In censuring Baghdad for its flagrant violation of international law Moscow does not, however, intend to turn a deaf ear to the proposals coming from the Iraqi leadership. After his meeting with Mr. Hammadi, Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists that he thought the latest statements by the Iraqi president contained elements deserving a careful study. He said a group of experts in Moscow had been analysing the pronouncements made by the Iraqi leaders. The Soviet foreign minister discussed with Mr. Hammadi also the future of the foreign nationals caught by the armed conflict in Iraq and Kuwait and expressed satisfaction with Iraq's assistance to the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Kuwait.

Incidentally, the Western media have reported that Baghdad allegedly declined the Soviet Union's request for returning home all to the Soviet specialists working in

Iraq and allowed only women and children to leave. This country had not made any such request, but it is hoping that, if need be, mutual understanding may be reached with Iraq on the subject. Moscow has been urging Baghdad to treat other foreign nationals similarly. Without seeking the role of an intermediary, the Soviet Union, being a civilized country, regards it its duty to respect the lawful interests of all nations. The participants in the Moscow meeting described it as useful and necessary. The parties agreed to hold regular consultations of this kind in the future. The USSR, remaining committed to its principles and acting in full compliance with the Security Council's resolution, will take advantage of that arrangement for the sole purpose of looking for ways to settle the Gulf crisis politically.

Seek To Deter 'Military Disaster'

LD2108164790 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1626 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug (TASS)—The second meeting took place between Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Sa'dun Hammadi, special representative of the Iraqi leadership and deputy prime minister of Iraq. The exchange of views was continued on a number of important aspects of the current crisis situation in the zone of the Persian Gulf from the point of view of preventing it from developing into a military disaster. The Soviet side expressed certain specific thoughts on this account which Sa'dun Hammadi promised to bring to the attention of the Iraqi leadership. Particular attention was again drawn to the problem of the situation of foreign citizens in Kuwait and Iraq, as one requiring immediate resolution in accordance with the norms of international law and the principles of humanity.

Merit Seen in Saddam's Initiative

JN2008214590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug (INA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has stated that President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which was declared on 12 August, contains some elements that merit serious attention.

In statements published following his meeting with Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member, deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to the Soviet leadership, the Presidential Council member said: I believe there are certain elements in President Saddam Husayn's initiative that merit attention; very intensive work is currently under way here at the expert level.

He added: We are studying all details and all the paragraphs of President Saddam's initiative. We shall determine our stand later in the appropriate manner.

Meets With Ryzhkov 21 Aug

LD2108181590 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi in the Kremlin today.

During the meeting, the Soviet side gave the Soviet appraisal of the crisis situation in the Gulf caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

It was stressed that, pursuing the policy for strengthening peace, security, and respect for international law, the Soviet Union insists on the peaceful restoration of the situation, which existed before August 2.

Guided by the principle of mandatory nature of security council resolutions for U.N. member-countries, the USSR will observe the regime of sanctions established by Resolution 661 until the crisis is settled.

The Soviet side expressed regret that the Iraqi action has negatively influenced traditional cooperation between the two countries.

Ryzhkov expressed hope that, following the vital interests of the Iraqi people and the interests of peace and stability in the Gulf area, the Iraqi leadership will begin fulfilling Security Council Resolution 660, which will result in the earliest possible restoration of conditions for the development of international cooperation.

World nations would regard the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait as the victory of wisdom and law.

Hammadi set out the viewpoint of the Iraqi leadership on the situation in the Gulf. He concentrated on the explanation of the Iraqi position concerning a comprehensive settlement of conflict situations in the Middle East.

Hammadi stressed that the use of force in implementing sanctions against Iraq would increase the danger of an armed conflict in the region.

Ryzhkov raised the question about the citizens of the USSR and other states in Kuwait and Iraq and about the need to observe their rights, above all to a free exit in compliance with the generally recognized rules of international law and without any discrimination.

Soviets Seek 'Political Solution' to Gulf Crisis

PM2208082090 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 17 Aug 90 p 4

[Interview with CPSU International Department Deputy Chief Karen Brutents by Marcello Villari; place and date not given]

[Text] Moscow—The USSR will do its utmost to seek a political solution to the Gulf crisis. At present a flexing of muscles could grant Saddam Husayn unexpected allies in the Arab world. This was said by Karen Brutents, who has on several occasion acted as Gorbachev's personal envoy to the Middle East.

"This conflict," he said—"or, rather, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait—constitutes a serious violation of the most fundamental tenets of international law. Now we must prevent it from spreading, because we are in an area that constitutes a kind of time bomb—and perhaps its delay setting is not so long—and the thrusts emanating from the Middle East could cause waves that could spread even beyond the region. So it is becoming vital to use all the political instruments at our disposal, since not all the possibilities in this field have been used to the full to resolve the crisis. We consider the United Nations' involvement crucial in this regard."

[Villari] Do you criticize the growing U.S military involvement in the Gulf?

[Brutents] The United Nations has not made any decision on the use of military forces in the Gulf. We believe that the economic embargo is a very effective tool—and we are not alone in thinking so. It is working very well, because there is uncommon international agreement on this measure. Of course we must give it time so that it can fulfill all its potential. The problem is not the presence of U.S. troops in the region—and in any case Saudi Arabia had every right to raise the issue of its own defense—as much as, rather, a UN initiative and the quest of a political solution to the crisis. Furthermore, we must not forget that we are talking about the Middle East, which is a very, very complex area. For this very reason we must not do anything that could permit the aggressor—that is, Iraq—to exploit any error on our part in order to attract certain forces in the Arab world on its side which—and this must always be kept in mind—is at present profoundly divided.

[Villari] But do you believe that the American intervention could exacerbate this threat and, more generally, do you believe that it could cause a deterioration of U.S.-USSR relations?

[Brutents] No, I do not believe that the Arabs could side with the aggressor; but I do believe that their condemnation of Iraq could at some point become less strong, less convinced, if Iraq were to succeed in portraying it [U.S. intervention] as a military attack on the Arab world. As far as U.S.-USSR relations are concerned, I repeat what I said before, namely, that I have no reason to doubt U.S. intentions, and we are in solidarity with the Americans on this point. I believe that this is one of the most significant factors of recent years: In such an acute crisis and, moreover, in an area where we were long rivals, the United States and the USSR have acted as allies. But it is necessary to take measures that are suited to the ends and that do not go beyond them. This is the point. I have many reservations about a hasty flexing of muscles in this situation. I believe these doubts are not mine alone but are shared by Western Europe.

[Villari] The USSR does not rule out its own military involvement in the Gulf under certain conditions. Is this so?

[Brutents] Yes, but only under the UN flag. I am keen to stress this point. And only if all the possibilities offered by political measures are exhausted. Meanwhile, so as not to waste time, we have suggested discussing the issue of a multinational force in the UN Military Staff committee. Our proposal has elicited everyone's interest, including the Americans'. But, I repeat, the recourse to military measures must remain our last resort, and certainly not one of the first.

[Villari] Is the Soviet Army already preparing for a possible mission in the Gulf?

[Brutents] No, at the present no preparations of any kind are in progress. Nevertheless, I repeat, I do not rule out our participation in a multilateral force under UN auspices.

[Villari] Moscow's envoy, Mikhail Sytenko, is currently in the Middle East. What is the aim of his visit—to seek a form of mediation?

[Brutents] Sytenko has gone to seek contacts. Of course we want information on the spot so as to better understand what is going on.

[Villari] According to IZVESTIYA there are currently 193 Soviet military experts in Iraq. What are they doing there?

[Brutents] I can rule out the possibility that they are involved in any Iraqi military action.

Bush, Saddam Views Contradict on Holding Hostages

Bush Demands Release

PM2108150990 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Aug 90 p 1

[TASS-attributed "Chronicle of the Near East Conflict": "The Aggressor's Hallmark"]

[Text] 21 Aug—According to MENA, the "completion of the operation to site foreign nationals at Iraq's most important military and industrial installations" was announced in Baghdad. An official spokesman of Iraq's National Assembly (parliament) emphasized that all these foreign nationals have been provided with appropriate rest facilities and they all are in good health.

Under the threat of "severest punishment," the Iraqi authorities have forbidden all movement by Iraqi citizens and foreign nationals without the authorities' knowledge. Everyone must remain in places known to the authorities and nobody can move without a special permit, according to a warning broadcast by Iraqi Television Monday (20 August). Iraqi citizens have been ordered to hand all foreign nationals over to the authorities. Any attempt to hide them will be punished by death. On the same day Baghdad reiterated its demand, addressed to foreign embassies in Kuwait, to relocate to the Iraqi capital not later than Friday [24 August].

"The Iraqi invasion is not a simple military attack against tiny Kuwait. It is a merciless attack against the very essence of international order and the ideals of civilization," U.S. President G. Bush declared, addressing the convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Baltimore.

The President demanded that the Iraqi Government to release all foreign nationals held in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in line with the norms of international law and UN Security Council Resolution 664. "No matter how these innocent people may be called, they are in fact hostages," the President stressed. "Half a century ago," he said, "the world had an opportunity to stop a merciless aggressor and missed it. I promise you that we will never repeat this mistake." Recalling the allies' joint struggle during World War II, the U.S. President said: "I wish to thank President Gorbachev for his recent statement condemning the Iraqi aggression."

U.S. Department of State Spokesman R. Boucher announced that "the Iraqis are gathering Americans in groups and moving them elsewhere. We have no confirmations or figures at all. Our efforts in Baghdad and Kuwait during contacts with the Iraqi authorities, as well as in the United Nations, are aimed as before at ensuring the foreign nationals' right to exit."

The British Government announced its refusal to heed Iraq's warning that foreign diplomats in Kuwait would be deprived of their immunity if the embassies where they work are not closed down by Friday. BBC-TV cited Britain's Foreign Secretary D. Hurd, who declared that London will strive to retain its representatives in Kuwait for as long as this is "physically possible."

Saddam Terms Act 'Deterrence'

LD2208081290 Moscow TASS in English 0625 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Malyarov]

[Text] Cairo August 22 TASS—Iraq is only holding American citizens as hostages as a response to the American aggression against the Arab nation and Iraq, says an open letter addressed by President Saddam Husayn of Iraq to President George Bush. The text of the letter was broadcast by Iraqi television and Baghdad radio late on Tuesday.

Bush, the letter says, is confusing cause and effect. The crisis involving foreign citizens was not caused by Iraqi actions but by the American aggression. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will have to take personal responsibility for the further development of events, Husayn said. The detention of some American citizens in Iraq is a measure of response and deterrence.

Saddam pointed to the fact that the United States kept Japanese citizens as hostages during the Second World War.

The text of the letter was released by the MENA news agency, citing the above sources.

U.S. Defense Secretary Views Iraqi Policy

Calls Actions 'Barbaric'

LD2208075390 Moscow TASS in English 0728 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Malyarov]

[Text] Cairo August 22 TASS—Measures taken by the international community will force Saddam Husayn out of Kuwait, U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney has said.

He spoke on Tuesday [21 August] at a news conference for Egyptian and foreign journalists upon concluding his Arab tour.

Cheney singled out the complete economic embargo and large-scale military presence in the Gulf as pivotal measures. The American defence secretary said the United States would not pause in its attempts to free Kuwait, restore its sovereignty and independence.

Cheney blasted Saddam's policy with respect to foreign citizens in Iraq and diplomats in Kuwait. He described Saddam's demand that all embassies be transferred from Kuwait to Baghdad as inadmissible and essentially barbaric.

Speaking about the immediate results of his Arab tour, Cheney expressed full satisfaction with the level of mutual understanding reached by the U.S. leadership and the heads of the countries he had visited.

During his tour of the Arab capitals, Cheney visited Saudi Arabia twice, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Egypt and inspected the American units deployed in Saudi Arabia and the U.S. naval force in the Gulf.

Employs 'Stereotypes of Past'

PM2108152990 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Aug 90 First Edition p 5

[Article by Major A. Skrylnik: "Burdened by Stereotypes"]

[Text] Events in the Persian Gulf area cannot help raising the question: Is everything as simple as it seems? Are some states not pursuing not only the aims that they are openly declaring, but also other quite different ones?

The speech by U.S. Defense Secretary R. Cheney at the U.S. war veterans' convention in Atlanta (Georgia) brought to mind such questions. A look at the speech suggests that the massive buildup of U.S. Armed Forces in the Near East is intended not just to repulse Iraq's probable invasion of Saudi Arabian territory and not just to organize a solid sea blockade of Iraq, but also to demonstrate to public opinion the enduring importance of U.S. military might and the U.S. role as ruler of the destinies of countries and peoples.

Clearly it was no accident that in his speech the Pentagon chief linked current events in the Persian Gulf zone and the long-term problems of U.S. military building. He again recalled the Pentagon's favorite formula—"The best way of preserving peace is to be ready for war." In this connection Cheney criticized the sentiments in favor of reducing military expenditure that are now widespread in the United States. According to him, the events of the past few days have clearly shown the global nature of U.S. interests and the responsibility that, according to him, it bears in any region of the earth. All this requires specific changes in U.S. military strategy and its reorientation toward Armed Forces' participation primarily in regional conflicts and in protecting the country's interests far beyond its borders. Admittedly, the secretary stipulated that the traditional stress on the U.S. strategic, nuclear deterrent capability remains unchanged. Nevertheless, he stressed, forward-based forces, particularly in Europe and in the Pacific ocean region, are called upon to play a special role in the current conditions, as is the preservation and strengthening of the U.S. role as a leading sea power.

Washington is not denying that a preemptive strike on Iraqi troops is possible. This, together with the plans expounded by Cheney in Atlanta, attest that the stereotypes of the past and reliance on force are still valued across the ocean.

UN Security Council Continues Talks on Gulf

Divided on Crisis Resolution

LD2208080590 Moscow TASS in English 0712 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] New York August 22 TASS—The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council continued consultations on Tuesday [21 August] devoted to the crisis caused by the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait.

The envoys met to discuss the U.S. proposal to use force to police the economic embargo of Iraq.

A participant in the consultations later said that the envoys differed on the international mechanism of control over naval operations to ensure the possible blockade of Iraq.

It is noted in the U.N. community that the American delegation is doing all it can to pressure the Security Council to adopt a resolution permitting all countries with warships in the Gulf to use force to check the cargoes carried by merchant vessels.

The issue is becoming increasingly urgent following reports from Yemen that an Iraqi tanker has moored in the port of Aden. The Security Council may decide to meet later today, observers report.

Two special envoys of the U.N. secretary-general arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday to hold talks with the Iraqi authorities on their decision to hold foreign citizens in Iraq as hostages.

The Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis prompted a flurry of diplomatic notes between the leaders of various countries on the one hand and the U.N. secretary-general and the Security Council chairman on the other. Messages from Iraq denounce U.S. naval activities against Iraqi ships. Jordan has also complained of the actions by U.S. warships.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a message to the U.N. secretary-general noting that the U.S. President's directive to intercept and inspect ships in the Gulf had no legal force and was a flagrant violation of the U.N. Charter. No country has the right to act unilaterally in this situation. Instructions must be issued by the Security Council, al-Qadhdhafi said.

The Kuwaiti permanent envoy to the United Nations noted that from the very first day of the Kuwaiti occupation the Iraqi authorities began and continue to destroy Kuwait's infrastructure. They plunder and destroy the property of banks, companies, government and private financial organisations.

The Iraqis are confiscating money, jewellery and means of transport belonging to individuals and the country's strategic food stocks.

These actions are aimed at depriving the people of Kuwait of food and driving them out of their own country, the message says. Over the past few days the Iraqi occupation authorities mined all important state installations in Kuwait, including oil refineries, power plants, sea ports and water distilleries.

Rejects Enforcing Embargo

LD2108103290 Moscow TASS in English 0954 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] United Nations August 21 TASS—The United States has failed to persuade U.N. Security Council members to immediately adopt a resolution giving the green light to the use of force to police the trade embargo against Iraq.

During the consultations held at U.N. headquarters on Monday night, the council decided to postpone a vote on the U.S.-sponsored draft resolution in order to give governments additional time to study it.

TASS was told that Thomas Pickering, U.S. permanent representative, received instructions from President George Bush to ensure that the Security Council adopts the resolution before 06.00, New York time, today so that the U.S. Navy had time to incercept an oil tanker en route from Iraq to Yemen.

However, Abdalla Sileh al-Ashtal permanent representative of Yemen at the United Nations, assured the Council members that his country intends to comply with the Council's earlier adopted decision on the imposition of sanctions against Iraq.

The Yemeni delegate said that the Iraqi tanker would not be allowed to moor in Aden, British Permanent Representative Crispen Tickell told journalists.

In addition, representatives of Cuba and Colombia, pleading the special importance of the suggested decision on the use of force, pointed out the need to postpone it so that the governments could thoroughly think it over.

The draft resolution expresses serious concern over the fact that Iraq continues to refuse to comply with the Council's earlier adopted resolutions and continues to use Iraqi ships to export oil.

If approved, the document will enable all countries with ships in the Gulf to use force to check cargoes on all merchant vessels bound from and for Iraq to enforce economic sanctions.

The draft resolution also notes the U.N. Security Council's determination to put an end to the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and restore the legitimate authority, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

The document envisages the possibility of using the U.N. Security Council's Military Staff Committee to coordinate the actions of naval task forces. Several amendments were introduced to the U.S.-sponsored draft resolution.

Cuba's proposal to exclude medicines and food from the list of items covered by the economic sanctions against Iraq was also submitted to the Council.

Pickering said after the consultations that firm assurances by the Yemeni representative made it possible to postpone the passage of a resolution on the use of force to police the sanctions. However, he pointed to the U.S. delegation's determination to seek the earliest possible approval of the resolution.

The Council may reconvene on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the matter.

Official Talks on Mideast Crisis Reported

Message Sent to U.S. Secretary

LD2208080690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] On 21 August Belonogov, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received Matlock, U.S. ambassador in the USSR, at the latter's request. During the conversation, Matlock was presented with a message from Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, addressed to Baker, U.S. secretary of state, on issues linked to the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Ryzhkov on Trade With Iraq

LD2208084290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has issued an instruction by which ministries and departments concerned with trade and economic, and financial and credit ties with Iraq and Kuwait are to take measures in accordance with the UN resolution on discontinuing certain forms of ties with Kuwait and Iraq. Organizations are required to formulate specific measures for reducing to a minimum losses to the country as a result of discontinuing certain forms of trade and economic, and financial and credit ties with Iraq and Kuwait. On the basis of these data the USSR Foreign Ministry is to send to the UN Secretary-general general information within a timescale determined by him.

Saudi Ambassador to U.S. Arrives

LD2208021490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2222 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] His Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy Mosques to the United States, arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the government of the Soviet Union in order to discuss matters of interest to the two countries in light of current circumstances.

Belonogov, Egyptian Envoy Meet

LD2208085390 Moscow TASS in English 0835 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov today received the Egyptian ambassador to Moscow, Ahmed Mahir al-Sayyid, at the latter's request. They discussed the situation in the Gulf.

Saddam Said To Give Entry Visas to Palestinians

LD2208101690 Moscow TASS in English 1001 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Malyarov]

[Text] Cairo August 22 TASS—President Saddam Husayn of Iraq has decided to permit all Palestinians to enter his country, the MENA news agency reports quoting Jordanian sources.

Entry visas to Palestinians will be issued directly by Iraqi frontier guard officers at border check points. The decision, MENA says, also applies to entry to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Envoy Denies People's Support of Invasion

LD2208101190 Moscow TASS in English 0958 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Soviet Union 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj described as slander allegations that Iraq had annexed Kuwait at the request of young Kuwaiti freedom fighters.

In an interview with the MOSCOW NEWS weekly published today, the ambassador said that not a single Kuwaiti supported Saddam Husayn.

The invasion came as a surprise to Kuwaiti citizens, although an Iraqi threat had existed since Iraq refused to sign an agreement on the borders between the two countries, the ambassador said.

He said the invasion had been prompted by Saddam's conceit and lack of education. The Iraqi leader failed to foresee the reaction of the world community to his venture.

Speaking about the attitude of Arab countries to the annexation of Kuwait, the Kuwait ambassador expressed regret about the discord among them.

International Lawyers' Group To Sue Saddam

LD2108095690 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] A multinational lawyers' group will sue Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for violating international law by invading Kuwait, a spokesman for the group said in Seoul on Tuesday. The Asia-Pacific Lawyers' Association will file the lawsuit against Mr. Husayn at the International Court of Justice in The Hague in a day or two, demanding an immediate halt to the armed aggression by Iraq, the spokesman said. The association has already finished the necessary prepartions to institute the suit and the purpose of this action is to provide legal backing for the sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq, said spokesman Pak Dong Hwan. The association, an international private organization, formed in 1984 with a view to contribute to international justice and peace, has 3,000 lawyers from 75 countries as members, including such world powers as the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and Japan.

Commentaries Continue To Assess Persian Gulf

Various Outcomes Examined

PM2108184790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[By Aleksandr Bovin: "Political Observer's Opinion": "Concerning Kuwait"]

[Text] Indeed, the home of human beings, our common human home, was in a state of utter confusion....

It seemed there was a chance—a good, strong chance—of reaching the end of the 20th century with the cold war having been left far behind. One can probably even say that the end of confrontation between East and West and their joint movement toward a more stable world with fewer arms is the main trend of the development of international relations. This trend is clear to see in the intensive Soviet-U.S. contacts, in the policy of the democratic states of the industrial North, in the actions of many nonaligned countries of the developing South.

Then comes the inevitable "but." Trends and natural and historical laws will always be accompanied by antitrends and will have to make their way through a system of deviations, zigzags, and retrograde steps. This is due to differing, dissimilar socioeconomic and political conditions and the relative nature of a historical time in which peoples and state formations separated from one another not only by borders but also by ages exist "simultaneously"....

Hence the continuing existence on the historical scene at the end of the 20th century of leading figures belonging essentially to the political Middle Ages, to the throng of big and small dictators to whom war is a perfectly acceptable, normal, and reasonable means of expanding their influence and consolidating their power.

Moscow and Washington talk about wars being unacceptable and criminal—but it is a different era in Baghdad, so Saddam Husayn gives the order to occupy Kuwait. There are speeches at the UN Security Council about fist law being unacceptable, but Iraq lives by different laws, so Saddam Husayn announces the annexation of Kuwait....

One could be optimistic and say that what we are faced with is one of the last military conflicts, continuing the tradition of a passing historical era. But one could also be a pessimist and say that what we are faced with is one of the first armed conflicts of the new historical era, when the cessation of Soviet-U.S. confrontation has eliminated the threat of a "big war," a nuclear war, and has made room for small wars, conventional wars. Before deciding which position—optimistic or pessimistic—is closer to historical reality, let us try to answer two questions.

First, what does Saddam Husayn want to achieve by seizing Kuwait?

Above all, I think he wants to strengthen his political regime, seriously weakened by the failure of the blitzkrieg in Iran, the enormous losses, and also by the endless repressions inside the country.

The intention was to effect a further considerable improvement in Iraq's economic situation. In fact, by getting Kuwait, Iraq could control a significant proportion of world oil stocks, substantially expand oil exports, and strengthen its influence on the prices at which oil is sold on the world market.

On this foundation, plus an enormous military potential, the Baghdad leader was intending to turn Iraq into a regional superpower and take up dominant positions in the Persian Gulf, the Near and Middle East, and the Arab world. When you consider that West Europe gets nearly 50 percent of its oil and Japan more than 60 percent of its oil from the Gulf countries, Baghdad's aspirations assume a global character.

If it did not encounter a rebuff at the first, Kuwaiti stage of the aggression and strengthened its hegemonist position, Iraq could then try to knock together a radical Arab front for the total elimination of Israel. There is also the possibility that Iraq would risk provoking a military conflict with Israel at the earlier stages. This would force the United States to act in defense of Israel, which, for obvious reasons, would destroy the anti-Iraqi front of the United States and some Arab states.

Finally, because as far as Saddam Husayn is concerned "l'etat c'est moi" ["I am the state"] one discerns among all the political and other goals and tasks of his latest aggression a supreme goal, a supreme task—the consolidation of the regime of personal power.

The second question is: What has Saddam Husayn achieved by seizing Kuwait? Since the events are still unfolding, the answers are somewhat tentative, but the crux of the matter will remain unchanged.

First and foremost, Baghdad's action has led to Iraq's unprecedented international isolation. All five permanent members of the UN Security Council adopted a common stance in favor of condemnation of the aggression and the imposition of an embargo. Of the 20 members of the Arab League present at an emergency conference in Cairo, 15 (three with reservations) condemned the aggression, two abstained, and only Libya, the PLO, and Iraq itself voted against.

Saddam Husayn is shifting his ground. On the one hand, in an attempt to ease the effects of isolation, he made an emergency announcement that Baghdad accepts the peace terms already offered by Tehran long ago. But on the other hand, deliberately scornful of world public opinion, he makes the barbarous decision to move citizens of "hostile" Western powers in Iraq to strategic installations so as to protect potential targets with hostages. This is no longer a question of isolation. This is a matter of the Baghdad regime and its leader placing themselves beyond the pale of international law.

A necessary clarification. The anti-American, anti-Western, and anti-imperialist slogans proclaimed by Baghdad, the calls for "jihad," the emphasis on struggle against "princes, emirs, and sultans," and the appeals to Arab nationalism and to the awareness of oppressed masses ensure a certain support for Saddam Husayn's policy among the masses and among a certain section of Arab and Muslim countries' political leaders. But the inevitable surmounting of fear, rejection of lies, and collapse of illusions will be that much more pernicious for the totalitarian regime.

The imposition of an embargo on trade with Iraq, the cessation of oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait, and the freezing of their bank accounts cannot fail to produce growing economic difficulties in Iraq and the gradual depletion of resources for waging an aggressive policy. True: According to expert estimates, between 1914 and 1985 economic sanctions were effective in only 39 cases and were unsuccessful in 69 cases. Let us hope that this time the international solidarity of the opponents of aggression will make it possible to overcome the ever-present vacillations.

The conquest and swallowing up of one Arab state by another have inflicted on the Arab world and the community of Arab states a loss that will be difficult to remedy. The sovereignty of Kuwait, linked by numerous multilateral and bilateral agreements with the other Arab countries, has been trampled. The material prosperity and fate of hundreds of thousands of citizens of Arab and Muslim countries working in Kuwait are now in question. The painful choice imposed on the Arab peoples (either for Iraq or for U.S. assistance) has produced new deep cracks within the Arab League. OPEC has been KO'd.

At the same time the Arab capitals—especially those of the Gulf countries—must admit that what is happening is largely the result of the fact that Arab leaders have often been unwilling to take notice of Baghdad's dangerous escapades, unwilling to appraise soberly the statements emanating from Baghdad. "From the military viewpoint," THE WASHINGTON POST claims, "the Iraqi invasion is no more than the brutal mugging of a rich old lady whom the local bully has persecuted and insulted for several months on end with the connivance of those around." And even now, by no means all "those around" have changed their stance....

No matter what Baghdad says, the annexation of Kuwait has objectively played the role of an invitation to the United States ensuring that U.S. troops will have the best seats in the stalls of Baghdad's theater of the absurd. Several Arab states have clearly become more dependent on U.S. political and military aid. Even if the U.S. troops withdraw from Saudi Arabia more or less shortly, they will leave behind a considerably improved and "tailor-made" military infrastructure (airfields, dumps, radar stations, and so on and so forth), as well as a precedent, a beaten path as it were. And the Arab world will owe all this primarily to Saddam Husayn.

The U.S. "hawks" will also owe him. They will now find it much easier to fight the intended quite major cut in the military budget.

The gift offered to Israel is not a bad one, either. First, the Palestinian question has once more been shifted onto the back burner (or, for lovers of nuance: has once more been removed from the forward line) of world politics. Second, differences within the Arab world have deepened, and this has always helped Israel. Third, the Arabs' "classic" argument about the impermissibility of occupying foreign territories does not sound all too convincing against the background of Kuwait's occupation by Iraq.

Baghdad is maneuvering. It is making advances to Iran. It is speculating with the hostages. It is threatening recourse to chemical weapons. If only it can remain in Kuwait. But to agree with Baghdad and accept its rules of the game would mean encouraging present and future aggressors. I hope that this will not happen. And then the aforementioned optimist will be proved right.

'Sober' U.S. Reponse Urged

LD2208144990 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1303 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS political observer Yuriy Kornilov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 August, TASS—The further intensification of the crisis in the Persian Gulf arouses growing alarm among the international and Soviet public. Our country today, as previously, firmly advocates the restoration by peaceful political means of the situation which existed in the region prior to 2 August. At the same time, the results of the first joint meeting of ambassasors and military representatives of members states of the United Nations Security Council Military Staff Committee have been welcomed with satisfaction in Moscow. This meeting strengthens hopes that it will prove possible to activate the mechanism of the committee's work which, without doubt, can play an important and positive role regarding the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

A number of international press bodies, in particular the British SUNDAY TIMES, commenting on the situation around Kuwait, write in this connection of "secret cooperation" in the military sphere between the USSR and the United States. I have to say first and foremost that the USSR, like the overwhelming majority of the world's states, condemns the use of force to redraw state borders. Our country, counting on the good sense and responsible attitude of the Arab states and their regional organizations, relies on the powers and rights of the United Nations and the Security Council, and intends to act exclusively within the framework of collective efforts to settle the conflict.

As regards the article in the SUNDAY TIMES, it contains more 'sensations' than facts. In reality, everything is much simpler. It is well known that in recent times contacts between the United States and the USSR have been established and are being activated in the military sphere, too. As I was told in the USSR Ministry of Defense press center, within the framework of these contacts, the Soviet defense attache attached to the USSR embassy in the United States, Grigoriy Yakovlev, recently visited the Pentagon. Taking account of Washington's concern about the development of events, and in response to a request from the American side, he provided information about military cooperation between our country and Iraq, to whom the USSR, as is known, has supplied "ground-to-ground" missile systems, T-72 tanks, MiG-23, MiG-29, and Tu-22 aircraft, and some other forms of weapons at various times. It was noted, in particular, that the USSR has never supplied chemical weapons to anyone, including Iraq. It was stated that there are no Soviet military advisors in Iraq, and there are about 200 military specialists whose task is to provide assistance in mastering and using the supplied military equipment. They have not taken and are not taking any kind of role in the planning and conducting of military actions. The soviet defense attache stressed, in particular, that, as it is felt in Moscow, the opportunities to resolve the conflict by peaceful means without using armed forces are far from exhausted, and expressed the hope that the American side would show a sober and balanced approach to the development of events in this complex situation.

In the context of what was said it is appropriate to recall that the USSR agreed to sell Iraq weapons only to maintain the defense capability of that country, and not to seize the territory of others.

Guided by the principle of the binding nature of United Nations Security Council decisions for UN member states, our country intends to observe the regime of sanctions established by Resolution 661 until the crisis in the Persian Gulf is removed. Jointly with other member-states of the international community, the USSR intends to continue to do everything within its power to put an end to aggression in the name of the victory of reason and right.

Economic Impact Viewed

PM2208082290 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA press service report: "The Gulf Conflict and Eastern Europe"]

[Text] The East and West European press is writing with increasing alarm about the fact that the success of the complex process of economic reorientation by East European countries has been placed under threat because of the Persian Gulf crisis. According to calculations by Western experts, if oil prices top $25 a barrel next year, roughly 30 percent of all Poland's export earnings, 75 percent of Czechoslovakia's, and 100 percent of Bulgaria's will be required to pay for oil imports.

It is well known that the largest supplier to East European countries is the Soviet Union, whose export stocks have substantially decreased and which from the new year is switching over to trading in fuel at world prices in freely convertible currency. As London's FINANCIAL TIMES maliciously observes in this regard, "the Soviets have made it clear that they do not wish to subsidize their allies' switch to capitalism, or at least do not wish to do so for long."

When Hungary recently had to contend with an unforeseen reduction in supplies from the Soviet Union, it got out of the situation by a single acquisition of Iraqi oil (partially offsetting this against Iraq's debts to it, which amount to around $150 million). Other East European countries, which are owed roughly $5 billion by Iraq, were counting on similar mixed forms of payment, and also on barter deals with Iraq. Bulgaria is particularly highly dependent upon Iraqi oil (ssee IZVESTIYA No. 233).

Although some East European figures, for example, Hungarian Foreign Minister G. Jeszenszky, have made reassuring statements, the possibility of economic and even political destabilization in East Europe as a result of the oil embargo is being seriously examined in the West. According to a PAP report from Washington, high-level discussion of the problem has taken place in the American capital with the participation of the secretary of the treasury, the President's national security adviser, and the assistant secretary of state coordinating the American aid programs to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

'Upsurge' in Anti-U.S. Sentiment

PM2208083090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Portanskiy: "Expecting an Arab Initiative"]

[Text] Algiers—There has been a notable upsurge in anti-American sentiments in the Arab world of late.

Protests against the presence of U.S. forces in the region took place last week in Yemen, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria, and the occupied territories. Palestinians burned the American flag in Jerusalem Friday. The same day a march organized by the most influential opposition party—the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)—was held in the Algerian capital. Its participants chanted: "No to U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf!", "No to the plot against Islam's holy places", "Jihad, jihad!" (a holy war against the "infidel"—A.P.). FIS leader A. Madani described any Arab appeal to the United States for military help as treachery. In the Tunisian capital similar demonstrations were staged by the ruling party, a number of opposition parties, and local trade unions. Feelings were running so high that the police had to intervene, and helicopters were patrolling the city. The demonstrators who gathered in front of the Arab League headquarters condemned the presence of the U.S. Navy in Gulf waters, stating that it poses a threat to the region, and demanded the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Arab lands, including the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

The Arabs' negative reaction to the U.S. presence in the Gulf is entirely explicable. They recall Washington's policy of encouraging the Israeli aggressors, the bombing of Libya by U.S. aircraft, and other U.S. actions which have entrenched an anti-American stereotype in the Arab world in recent years.

However, today the Arab condemnation of U.S. actions in the region—aimed, as is well known, against Baghdad, which seized Kuwait—is being directly transformed into support for Iraq. And condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor is taking a back seat, as it were. It is possible to understand the spontaneous emergence in certain countries—Algeria, for instance—of committees in support of the Iraqi people, who have borne the brunt of the military adventure launched by the Saddam Husayn regime, but the appearance in certain places of portraits of the Iraqi leader admittedly is perplexing in the current situation. Is there any explanation for this?

I personally see this unexpected upsurge in pro-Iraqi sentiments as a manifestation of the illusion held by some Arabs that the age-old problem of Arab unity can be solved in the face of an external threat. Because of constant dissension the Arab countries and their main political institution—the Arab League—have failed to solve such acute problems as the elimination of the consequences of the 1967 Israeli aggression or Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982. Here is another example: Although the unexpected emergency meeting in Cairo of the Arab League heads of state devoted to the situation in the Persian Gulf did condemn Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, it again revealed the serious differences in the member countries' positions.

Against this backdrop the Iraqi leader's actions smack precisely of an attempt to rally forces around a common Arab purpose. And to such an extent that in certain Arab countries volunteers are being recruited to defend Iraq against foreign invasion, rather than helping the victim of the aggression—Kuwait.

Needless to say, any outside interference in the Persian Gulf unconnected with the corresponding UN resolutions runs the risk of further complicating the situation. Arabs are stating that it is their internal crisis and they should solve it themselves. One could entirely agree with this if the contradictions between the Arabs did not preclude a way out of the crisis. Judging by recent reports, the Maghreb states, the PLO, and Egypt are prepared to make initiatives to solve the conflict in the Persian Gulf. These initiatives may be announced from Monday onward.

Iraq's Withdrawal From Iran Eyed

NC2208103590 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Commentary by Yuriy Andreyev from "The World Today"]

[Text] According to the timetable, the withdrawal of the Iraqi Armed Forces from occupied Iranian territories is to end today. Our commentator Yuriy Andreyev writes:

The contradictory and extraordinary thing is that despite the extremely tense crisis in the Persian Gulf and Iraq's international isolation, relations between Tehran and Baghdad are progressing at a relatively stable rate. Extremely obvious reasons led to the tumultuous peace between the two hostile governments and currently both governments are interested in talks and are not willing to stop.

Saddam Husayn has started to move his Armed Forces to the West. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in turn, is having conditions met in the peace agreement which Iran was unable to gain during two years of difficult talks.

Tehran's propaganda machinery has been put into motion and has started to speak about Islam's largest victory. As if with a fanfare of trumpets, many have forgotten that the Iran-Iraq peace agreement was gained at the cost of the Kuwaiti tragedy.

However, there is no doubt about Tehran's political victory which the prudent Iranian leadership is strengthening by turning its attention to the subtle and hidden aspects of this issue. First and foremost, the withdrawal of the Iraqi Armed Forces from the 2,600 square kilometers of Iranian territory is of immense singificance to Iran. As we know, Iraq started its withdrawal on Friday and intends to complete this task today. The entire process was planned to last five days. INA reports that by 20 August Baghdad had withdrawn from 60 percent of the Iranian territory it had occupied during the Iran-Iraq war. IRNA reports that Iraq has fully withdrawn from Ilam province and that during the past two days it actively continued withdrawing its Armed Forces from the central area of [name indistinct]. The process has continued without interruption and by 22 August the Iraqi troops are expected to take up their former positions bases on the 1975 Algiers agreement. Thus, the former situation has been fully revived and the two sides are now returning to the same situation that existed in their territorial differences in 1980.

The completion of the exchange of prisoners of war [POW's] should be the second phase in the fulfillment of the Iran-Iraq peace agreement. International calculations estimate about 30,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq and about 70,000 Iraqi POW's in Iran. The exchange has been taking place on a larger scale during the past few days. Yesterday Tehran said that the two sides have agreed to exchange 8,000 POW's daily. The agreement was reached in Geneva and foresees assistance from the International Red Cross, which will be sending new groups of its employees to the two countries' borders.

Meanwhile, IRNA reports that the fourth group of POW's arrived in Iran. Thus, 4,000 people have returned to their homeland. The same news agency also reported that Tehran has sent 5,000 Iraqi soldiers to the borders to be exchanged.

Imam Khomeyni had once said that he considers making peace with Iraq the same as drinking a cup of poison. But recent incidents show that the current leadership has been able to avoid this fate; instead Kuwait has drunk the cup of poison.

TASS Reports Pakistan's Response to Hijacking

Hijackers Interrogated

LD2208083290 Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Aleksandrov]

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—The Soviet Union has officially asked the Pakistani leadership to extradite the hijackers who commandeered a Soviet Tupolev-154 aircraft last Sunday [19 August] and forced it to land in Karachi on Monday.

The eleven convicts in transit between Siberian prisons who seized the plane in midair after overpowering their guards are wanted for the hijack and earlier crimes.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS today that the extradition is being discussed, but Pakistan has yet to formally reply to the Soviet request.

According to information available to the Foreign Ministry, the Pakistanis are interrogating the hijackers, who surrendered to authorities after landing in Karachi.

The plane and passengers returned to the Soviet Union on Tuesday morning. Moscow expressed "sincere gratitude to the Pakistani leadership for its help and assistance to the Soviet airliner's crew and passengers", Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh told a briefing here on the same day.

He said the Soviet Union saw those Pakistani actions as "highly humane".

An official communique on the incident issued in Islamabad said the hijackers' actions would be viewed in keeping with Pakistani legislation, which envisages the death penalty for hijacking.

Will Apply Local Law

LD2208100290 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0910 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladislav Legautsov]

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Aug (TASS)—Hijackers of the Tu-154 aircraft will be dealt with under the relevant Pakistani legislation, says an official report distributed here.

It says permission to land the hijacked airliner at Karachi airport was out of the ordinary since Pakistan rarely allows aircraft carrying air pirates to land on its territory. The document says the Tu-154 was given the "O.K." to land as a gesture "of goodwill toward the Soviet Union" and based on the fact that the aircraft was running out of fuel. The report speaks highly of the measures taken by the local authorities, who saw to the swift and safe release of the passengers.

Local television reports the 11 hijackers of the Tu-153, which made an emergency landing at Karachi airport on 20 August, will appear before a Pakistani court.

Pakistan prefers not to hand over airline hijackers to the countries where they committed their crime. They are tried under local law, which envisages the supreme measure of punishment. Pakistani commandos in 1986 carried out an operation to free hostages from a Pan American airliner in Karachi.

Although all five air pirates were captured, handed over for trial, and sentenced to death, the sentences have not yet been carried out.

West Europe

Sweden Not To Extradite in Hijacking Case

PM2208131990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent M. Zubko: "Strange Decision"]

[Text] Stockholm—All the indications are that the Swedish Supreme Court has "gotten tired" of extraditing terrorists to the Soviet Union. Terrorists who have hijacked our passenger airplanes with hundreds of totally innocent passengers on board to Stockholm. Sweden made the following decision: The third criminal M. Mokretsov should not be extradited to the USSR, he must be tried in Sweden.

The judges after all found a legal ploy for not extraditing the air terrorist. Of course, they cite "humanitarian motives," which they say outweigh the gravity of the crime. But this decision quite obviously reveals a reversion to the past—to do everything that is contrary to the Soviet Union's interests. Many people in Sweden acted this way in the "cold war" years. The members of the Swedish Supreme Court have obviously not noticed that that war has already ended.

The Mokretsov case is virtually identical to the Semenov and Mikhaylenko cases. But the conclusion, as we can see, is completely different. Here the reason is manifest in the unwillingness to do as the Soviet side has asked.

Commerce Agreements Signed at Vienna Ceremony

LD2108164990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 21 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] A ceremonial investiture with the Order of Friendship of the Peoples to Rudolf Sallinger, president of the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria, has been held in the Soviet Embassy in Vienna. [passage omitted]

Comrade Gorbachev, president of the USSR, has conferred upon Herr Sallinger the Order of Friendship of Peoples for his great work in the development of economic cooperation between the USSR and Austria. Afterwards, two agreements were signed between the USSR Chamber of Commerce and the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria on further cooperation in all questions, and the second—on cooperation in the sphere of training and raising specialists' qualifications for foreign economic activity. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister To Visit 25-26 Aug

LD2008104490 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 20—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will pay a working visit to the Soviet Union from August 25-26, it has been announced here.

Latin America & Caribbean

Good Relations With U.S. Tied to Aiding Cuba

PM2108134990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[Article by PRAVDA political observer Gennadiy Vasilyev in response to reader's letter: "Not to Cuba's Detriment"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "Recently the mass media have reported several times on speeches by U.S. Administration representatives and President G. Bush. Their essence is that we may be given appropriate assistance provided the USSR cuts its military spending and abandons its aid to Cuba. This is a kind of ultimatum! And for some reason it has not prompted any commentary—particularly in PRAVDA. And yet it has greatly pained both communists and working people in general. I realize that if such an ultimatum is made by the U.S. President then the reply should also come from the president. But PRAVDA could make its contribution." A. Chernikov, deputy party bureau secretary at Nevskiy Rayon's Territorial Party Organization No. 230, Leningrad.

Esteemed Aleksandr Mitrofanovich! I agree with you in the sense that the imposition of any conditions by one country's leadership on another country, or attempts to make the prospects for improving relations between them conditional on a rejection of independent policy deserve the roundest condemnation as contravening the norms of international law. Indeed, the U.S. Administration is trying to make the development of economic ties with the Soviet Union contingent on our country abandoning its existing relationship with Cuba, including economic cooperation. (But it is not contingent on our cutting our military spending—I have not encountered a demand of this sort.)

I personally explain all this by saying that, despite the major positive changes in the international situation, cold war-era stereotypes are still prevalent on the banks of the Potomac. Particularly with respect to Cuba—a small country "cheek by jowl" with a giant and daring to pursue an independent policy. I think that Washington will still have to reinterpret its policy in the region, where the habits of the strong-arm approach are still particularly potent in its plans and actions.

Our attitude to "linkages" is clear and straightforward. However much we may cherish the improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations, we will not achieve further progress in that direction at the expense of our ties with other countries. Soviet-Cuban relations are developing according to their own rules, based on the fullest possible consideration of the two countries' interests. This was stated in detail by M.S. Gorbachev during his visit to Havana last year. It is attested by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation Between the USSR and Cuba signed back then, as well as by subsequent steps in our bilateral affairs.

Political & Socal

Gorbachev Returns to Moscow From Crimea

LD2108174390 Moscow TASS in English 1737 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev returned from the Crimea to Moscow today.

Wants Yeltsin To Return

LD2108120890 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Boris Yeltsin continues his visit to the Soviet Far East in the course of his tour of the Russian Federation. [passage omitted]

According to the news agency INTERFAX, President Gorbachev has suggested that Mr. Yeltsin interrupt his tour and return to Moscow to check the work on the plan of economic reform. Mr. Yeltsin described the situation as piquant [as heard]. [passage omitted]

Mr. Yeltsin said he categorically refused to interrupt his tour. [passage omitted]

Official Discusses Restoration of Citizenship

PM2108135990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

["From Competent Sources" interview with Gennadiy Cheremnykh, chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Secretariat Citizenship and Pardons Department, by S. Mostovshchikov: "Restoring Soviet Citizenship"]

[Text] By a USSR presidential decree, 23 people have had their Soviet citizenship restored. They include Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Vasiliy Aksenov, Vladimir Voynovich, Valeriy Chalidze, Viktor Korchnoy, and Oskar Rabin.

We asked Gennadiy Cheremnykh, chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Secretariat Citizenship and Pardons Department, who took up his post a few months ago, to comment on the event.

[Mostovshchikov] Gennadiy Grigoryevich, are there exact figures on how many people have been deprived by the Soviet authorities of their right to regard themselves as Soviet people and for what reason?

[Cheremnykh] From 1966 through 1988, 175 people were deprived of Soviet citizenship by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree. Around 60 of them were Armenian nationals who had demanded to leave the USSR for the United States and Canada. For a long time they were denied and they organized a protest campaign. It was then that these people were expelled from the country and deprived of their citizenship. There was another occasion when someone of Turkmen origin came to Turkmenia from abroad, wanting to look at the way things were in the old country. He was admitted and given a residence permit and citizenship. But for some reason he did not like it and he asked to go back. He was also deprived of his citizenship.

As for the rest—something like 100 people—they are so-called dissidents. It is well known now that many people were forcibly, unfairly, and illegally deprived of their citizenship for being dissidents. This political repression has been justly condemned in the country and, it seems to me, it is our duty now, if you like, to make it up to our compatriots. I do not think I am being hypocritical when I say that the decree that has been adopted is a way of making apologies, albeit belated apologies.

[Mostovshchikov] Can this be interpreted as meaning that we will not deprive people of their citizenship any more?

[Cheremnykh] Well, there has not been a single instance of deprivation of citizenship, even for political reasons, since 1988.

[Mostovshchikov] What about the people who leave the USSR on a so-called "Israeli visa"? I know that they automatically forfeit their citizenship and also automatically forfeit decorations and awards, if they have any....

[Cheremnykh] Yes. The 1967 decree which makes all this happen remains in effect to this day. According to our figures, about 400,000 people have now left the USSR on the "Israeli visa." The vast majority of them have done this voluntarily. But I must say that there are cases where people have been sent to Israel by force. We are looking for these people at the moment, we are attempting to establish contact and want to find ways of rectifying the errors that have been made.

As for the prospect of the decree's being revoked... It is difficult to say anything definite at the moment. I do not have the authority. The only thing I can confirm is that times are now changing rapidly for the better....

[Mostovshchikov] Can you tell me why work on restoring Soviet citizenship to people who have been illegally deprived of it is a stage-by-stage affair? Would it not be easier to restore it for everyone at one go?

[Cheremnykh] This proposal was considered, but it was not accepted. You see, many people have been abroad for a long time, they have their own lives, they have children, and the children have never had Soviet citizenship. Then we issue a decree giving them all their citizenship back. I would not be surprised if someone were to say: "What kind of a country is it? First they take away your citizenship without asking and then they give it back without asking." It may well be that some people do not want it. Therefore we take steps only if it has been firmly agreed with the person in question. Moreover, we do not ask for any applications and are not demanding that any formalities be observed. All it needs is a simple "yes," as happened in the case of Lyubimov, for example, and in the case of Rostropovich and his wife G. Vishnevskaya....

[Mostovshchikov] The restoration of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's citizenship is a great event for the USSR. Tell me, will he come back?

[Cheremnykh] Aleksandr Isayevich has indeed agreed to take Soviet citizenship again. I cannot tell you, however, whether he will come—I personally did not speak with him. All I know is that the conversation was conducted at a pretty high level. If you want to know my personal opinion, I, as a Russian, would be very glad if Aleksandr Isayevich returned to Russia.

Yanayev Interviewed on Reactions to Congress

PM2208090590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Aug 90 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Interview with G. Yanayev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, by Yu. Nikolayev; date and place not given: "Perestroyka and the Outside World"]

[Text] [Nikolayev] Gennadiy Ivanovich! Forgive me, but I cannot refrain from the most intimate question which, incidentally, is reiterated very frequently in our readers' letters: Why has there been such a drastic change in your fate? It is hardly a long time since great trust was placed in you—you were instructed to head the AUCCTU [All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions] and suddenly you are a CPSU Central Committee secretary and Politburo member....

[Yanayev] Believe me, I myself found this turn of events both unexpected and difficult. But I proceeded from the premise that, as a Politburo member, I would be able to promote the solution of socioeconomic questions in the interests of the country's trade union and workers movement. And I joined the party out of conviction, not for the sake of fashion or selfish interest, and in these grave days of ordeals for it I believe it absolutely compulsory for me to be where it deems necessary. I must not be a political weathercock like some of our new leaders. Although, I repeat, it was difficult to agree to switch to party work.

[Nikolayev] As far as I know in the Central Committee you have been instructed to engage in the party's international relations....

[Yanayev] Obviously it would be wrong to reduce the range of a Politburo member's duties to any one narrow avenue of activity. But the development of foreign relations is indeed the key sector for me....

[Nikolayev] A new question arises: Why was it that the choice fell upon you?

[Yanayev] Obviously it is not me you should ask about that. Indeed, there is a certain logic here. Back during the period of my work in the committee of USSR youth organizations we strove to set up businesslike, constructive relations with representatives of various political trends in the world and we did not restrict ourselves to contacts only with organizations of a communist orientation. I sought to adhere to these same principles as secretary and then as deputy chairman of the AUCCTU. So that I have gained some experience of communication with diverse forces and of reaching mutually acceptable agreements, or consensus, as it is now called. This experience was obviously necessary to the party now.

[Nikolayev] Gennadiy Ivanovich, if you do not object, we will narrow the topic of our conversation to your "key sector..."

[Yanayev] Go ahead!

[Nikolayev] Now that sufficient time has already elapsed, how would you assess the international response to the progress and results of the work of the 28th CPSU Congress?

[Yanayev] First of all I consider it absolutely essential to stress that as a whole the assessments of the congress in the world community were more positive and affirmative than in some Soviet mass media. That, to sum up, is, I emphasize, as a whole. It is natural that we must also consider here the fact that the spectrum of opinions in the world arena with regard to the importance of our party's 28th congress is just as broad as the modern world is varied. It is impossible to reduce them to a single denominator. I shall single out what seems most important.

The congress failed to justify the expectations or fears of those who believed that the voice of the opponents of in-depth transformations in our society and in the CPSU would prevail. The results of the congress, which played a crucial role in the party's life, refuted forecasts of that kind. An understanding of the fact that the CPSU's supreme party forum created new prerequisites for deepening the perestroyka process has overtly or surreptitiously been asserted in international public opinion.

The adoption of the program statement "Toward a Humane, Democratic Socialism," which has replaced the CPSU Program until a new program is drafted, is assessed abroad as an impressive victory for the supporters of perestroyka. The opinion is voiced that the elected leading organs of the CPSU both in their structure and personnel are more receptive to fresh ideas.

[Nikolayev] Nonetheless I have frequently read in our press opinions to the effect that the congress took a step to the right, with references to foreign sources.

[Yanayev] Of course, such assertions do exist. As a whole the opinion nonetheless prevails that the congress outlined the path toward radical changes. While noting the change in the party's place and functions in the system of power (the transition to a multiparty system, the shifting of the center of power to the President and USSR Supreme Soviet, the emergence of fully empowered elected organs in the republic) the majority of foreign observers at the same time believe that in the foreseeable future the CPSU will play a very important role in the country's life.

In the comments by foreign political circles and in the mass media attention has been focused on the role of M.S. Gorbachev as "the integrating political figure in the CPSU." One cannot but agree with that although it is appropriate to add that the CPSU Central Committee general secretary has performed his task precisely because he reflected most clearly and accurately the mood of the party majority.

Broad strata of the Western public and business circles welcome the signs of development of practical cooperation between the all-Union and republican centers of power. In recent days special attention has been paid to the fact that the recently created working group for the elaboration of ways of switching to a regulated marked economy is operating under the auspices of the USSR president and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet chairman.

[Nikolayev] It is perfectly understandable that the world community was concerned most of all by the foreign policy aspects of the work of the congress and its decisions....

[Yanayev] Naturally, people abroad wanted an answer to the question: To what extent will the Soviet Union's new international course be maintained? The keen debates that have flared up this year in our party and in society over foreign policy problems have created an atmosphere of tense and cautious expectation in the West. A characteristic detail: During the work of the congress the granting of current credits to the Soviet bank in Luxembourg was reduced to a minimum and it was switched to the "drop at a time" regime. The bankers, the business world, and politicians were waiting for the results of the congress to determine their future strategy. You don't have to be a big prophet to say that if matters had turned out differently we would have had to abandon any hope of aid from the West.

Of course, all expectations are different. In the world there are certain circles which nurture hopes of "the collapse of the Soviet empire." But they are not the ones who set the tone today. That is why such a keen reaction was generated by the attacks on the new political thinking and why there was such close attention toward polemics on foreign policy questions that developed at the congress. The deep interest of the West and East in the forward development of perestroyka processes and in the USSR's integration in the world community determined the generally favorable mood at a crucial period of our history. People there are well aware that the main fermenting agent in the positive changes in Europe and the world is the Soviet Union's new policy. The speeches by politicians and the numerous commentaries stressed that mankind's interests are met by:

—economic and political stability in the USSR, whose conservation has become a very important problem of world politics;

—the development and deepening of the reform process;

—the consolidation of the positions of the present Soviet leadership.

That is, the world is best suited by the line which the party forum proposed and developed.

[Nikolayev] In the hot days of the congress we were able to convince ourselves yet again of how closely everything in the world is interconnected and of how the biggest political events of the present day are interwoven....

[Yanayev] Indeed, it is interesting to return now to the period of a few months ago and to recall what we lived by. The period of the preparation and work of the 28th CPSU Congress saw very important political events like the Dublin conference of heads of state and government of the EC, the London session of the NATO council, the Houston conference of the heads of the seven leading capitalist powers.... In Dublin there was an active discussion of the question of the West European countries' economic aid to the eastern part of the continent including, of course, to the Soviet Union; in London it was stated that NATO does not view the Warsaw Pact States as its adversaries. Obviously, these two forums were called on to give a clear "signal" of the West's support for the policy of perestroyka and of its readiness to go halfway to meet the USSR. Although no overall agreement was reached in Houston on rendering joint wide-scale aid to the USSR, the decisions adopted by the "seven" open up new opportunities for mutually advantageous relations of partnership with the giants of the capitalist world.

Summing up the results of the congress, many Western observers agreed that there are no longer any grounds for supposing that a return to the past is possible in the USSR. The voices of those who believe that the West should render all-around aid to perestroyka and that perestroyka's success or failure will directly affect the world political climate were heard more loudly and confidently.

It was particularly satisfying that as a result of keen debates the congress delegates concluded that the line of new thinking in international affairs has been and remains the only correct one. It not only accords with our national interests, including from the viewpoint of safeguarding security, but also may be said to have returned the USSR to the world community and to have enhanced the country's prestige.

At the same time it should be noted that the West's most reactionary forces, citing the polemics at the congress, are calling for the disarmament process to be halted and for no economic aid to be granted to the USSR. So that the struggle on the "Russian question" in the West is not yet ended and much depends on the further development of events in our country.

[Nikolayev] And how did the East European countries, where contradictory processes are also developing, respond to the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress?

[Yanayev] Naturally, given the diversity of political forces existing there, the response could not be unanimous. Left-wing circles as a whole voice satisfaction with the results of the congress and the course it reinforced toward accelerating the processes of Soviet society's radical renewal. At the same time it is stressed that everything will now depend on how the party switches from decisions to actions. And one cannot but agree with that.

I would say that the positive balance also prevails in the assessments of representatives of forces which may conditionally be called liberal-centrist. They single out particularly the CPSU's resolve to continue the foreign policy course based on "the ideas of the new thinking" and respect for every people's right to choose their development path freely. In this they see an important condition for renewing relations with the Soviet Union—on the basis of the commonality of the peoples' real interests for all the diversity of their specific national features and aspirations.

But, unfortunately, they are not managing without speculations, especially from bellicose anticommunists. Exaggerating the antiperestroyka sentiments and nostalgia for previous orders heard in a number of speeches at the congress, they claimed that this was evidence of the party's organic inability to part with the dogmatically adventurist heritage of the past and embark on the path of profound democratic renewal. But, as is well known, the results of the congress refuted assertions of this kind.

[Nikolayev] Some speeches at the congress contained sharp criticism of the CPSU's present foreign policy course. In particular it was said that our nonintervention in the internal affairs of the East European countries has led to the loss of the Soviet Union's positions there, positions gained at such a high price during World War II. What can you say about that?

[Yanayev] Surely we did not fight fascism for that? Indeed it is well known that back during World War II the Soviet leadership stated repeatedly: We do not intend to impose our order on the enslaved countries of East Europe but merely want to help them free themselves from Hitler's enslavement so that they themselves can settle on their own land as they want. Unfortunately for many subsequent years these statements remained only a declaration. Now, in building our relations with the East European countries on the basis of the consistent observance of the principles of equality, noninterference, and equal advantage, we are returning to the ideals and values for whose sake our fathers and older brothers entered into battle against fascism and gave their lives. We are firmly convinced that only this policy can reliably ensure truly good-neighborly relations with the East European countries and consequently really reliably strengthen our national security by political means.

It must be said that a number of figures in the East European countries have voiced perplexity over the criticism leveled against the USSR's foreign policy at the congress. Some of them form the impression that a part of Soviet society simply has no adequate idea of what enormous importance for the normalization of international relations attaches to the new political thinking and of how deeply this thinking pervades world processes and how much it gives the USSR. I think that assessments of this kind are one more confirmation of the correctness of the line, of the course which we have steered and will steer with regard to our neighbors in East Europe.

[Nikolayev] We are all witnessing what a varied, contradictory, and sometimes painful reaction is generated in our society by even raising the question of switching the country to a market economy footing. This subject was also debated stormily at the 28th congress. But I wonder what the attitude toward this problem is in the West?

[Yanayev] You know, sometimes I form the impression that the Western countries' political and business circles and public are no less concerned at this problem than we are. There is no denying that sober-minded, responsible forces support our desire to switch from a supercentralized, expensive, and ineffective system to a market economy, bringing it organically into the world economy. It is true, and we shall not close our eyes to the fact, that in contrast to us some people in the West equate the introduction of the market to the capitalization of the Soviet economy and the erosion of our fundamental socialist values.

But at the same time attention is drawn also by the fact that, for instance, an influential force like the social democrats, which has accumulated great experience in defending the working people's interests under market economy conditions, is warning us and, incidentally, our East European neighbors, sometimes directly but more often obliquely, against let us call it the reckless transition to the market. So as not to leave my assertion unfounded I shall cite at any rate the opinion of an economist—the social democrat K. Eklund, an aide to the Swedish minister of finances. I think his advice requires no comment: "Don't go too far and too quickly. Do not allow the hasty privatization of health and education. Do not copy the capitalist system wholesale." A meaningful warning, is it not?

[Nikolayev] Yes, the Swedish expert's opinion is all the more interesting in that in articles by some of our authors the "Swedish model for society" is held up as a kind of model for emulation.

[Yanayev] Well, Swedish experience is indeed interesting and instructive and deserves the most attentive study, particularly from the viewpoint of the operation of the mechanism for working people's social protection. But here is what is characteristic: The Swedish social democrats themselves are by no means inclined to idealize their own practice but see its strong and weak aspects.

As for our borrowing of any social models, then as far as I can judge the West's approach toward this question has recently shown one characteristic natural law: Increasingly frequently you can hear it said that no one country has some "magic wand" that can help our society to "miraculously" emerge from its state of crisis. There are simply no models that are panaceas. The market in the West has been formed over centuries, from one generation to the next. Nor does world history contain an analogue that could serve as a model for us to switch from the totalitarian system, which subordinated all spheres of social life, to democracy and a regulated market. Hence the West's understanding of all the unprecedented complexity of the task we are resolving and its interest in ensuring that the reforms in the USSR are implemented in an atmosphere of the utmost stability, without cataclysms and "shock waves" which could shake the whole world.

[Nikolayev] For the first time in many years there were no representatives of foreign parties at the 28th congress. What could you say about that? What is these parties' assessment of our congress?

[Yanayev] It must be said that the foreign parties were understanding about the fact that this time no invitations were sent to them. The congress took place in a strictly workmanlike manner, a businesslike manner, without any elements of ostentation, as was the case in the past. And at the same time it was absolutely open: All those who were interested in its work received full information both through our television and through items in PRAVDA and from Soviet and foreign correspondents accredited to the congress.

Solidarity with the policy of perestroyka was displayed by the overwhelming majority of left-wing, communist, and other parties with which the CPSU maintains relations. This was expressed in particular in their greetings to the congress, published in RSFSR Paper.

As for the communist parties, it would be stretching a point to say that they have unanimous opinions on all questions of our policy. Some parties express fears that during the course of perestroyka the foundations of socialism in our country may weaken and that we may embark in the international arena on unfounded concessions to the Western countries. In brief, they are the same fears that Soviet comrades also voice sometimes. These voices were also heard at the congress, as we know.

During our international contacts CPSU Central Committee representatives explained the correctness of the line adopted by the party.

I shall add to what I have said that the 28th congress' resolution in defense of democratic rights and against persecution of Communists gave rise to a positive response in the left-wing movement. To judge by the responses that have come in it is assessed as an expression of comradely solidarity with the communists and all fighters for freedom and social justice who are being persecuted and experiencing hard times.

[Nikolayev] Some speeches at the congress, including in its international section, voiced alarm at the prospects of the international communist movement. What is your opinion on this subject?

[Yanayev] Most unequivocal. The 28th congress firmly expressed itself in favor of the development of cooperation with the communist and workers parties and other left-wing forces.

The CPSU sees itself as a part of the left-wing progressive forces throughout the world and sees its efforts as a component of the development and renewal of world socialism. The CPSU has many years' experience of cooperation in this direction. Not everything has been smooth. In the past the CPSU often exceeded its competence, so to speak, and tried to impose its own views and positions on foreign parties. Today, now that we have really discarded our claims to monopolize the ultimate truth, new forms are being asserted in interparty relations according with the interests of each individual party.

The renewal that is taking place in the CPSU acts as an effective factor in the positive changes in the world workers and communist movement. Many foreign friends are telling us this.

I should particularly like to draw attention to the following element. The congress proclaimed that the CPSU advocates overcoming the historical split in the workers movement. That means that our party intends to develop relations of cooperation not only with communist but also with socialist and social democratic parties. There is some progress on this path: It may be said that the CPSU now has normal relations with the Socialist International and a number of the parties belonging to it.

To be frank, the split cannot be overcome in an hour. It is a long and complex period, which will take some time. The CPSU intends to go even further—also to develop fruitful dialogue and solidary actions with the national democratic, ecological, and liberal parties and all political trends which advocate peace and social progress.

[Nikolayev] A few words, please, about how you see the CPSU's role in determining the Soviet state's foreign policy course under present conditions.

[Yanayev] The political reform that is being implemented in our country is raising in a new way the question of our party's place and role in determining the Soviet state's foreign policy course. Now the making of very important foreign policy decisions has been put under the control of the Congress of People's Deputies and USSR Supreme Soviet. The Union republics' potential in developing international relations is being expanded. The new sociopolitical organizations emerging in our country are establishing their own contacts with foreign parties and movements. Foreign policy as a concentrated expression of the interests of all strata of our multinational country now cannot and should not be implemented under the monopoly leadership of the CPSU.

But that does not mean that the CPSU is getting rid of its responsibility to ensure the most favorable international conditions for the development of the perestroyka process and the renewal of our society. Any political party puts forward its own view of foreign policy problems and ways of resolving them. This applies especially to ruling vanguard parties.

The CPSU is called on to continue to analyze the international situation and to elaborate a principled concept for the approach toward problems that exist and arise in the world arena. It will put its position before society, before representative organs of state power, demand that the Communists working in the diplomatic field and the international arena defend their people's interests with dignity and skill, and steer a course approved by the country's supreme legislative organs.

Meets Foreign Journalists

PM2108140790 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 16 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by Ye. Kubichev: "To Believe in the Logic of Progress"]

[Text] Gennadiy Ivanovich Yanayev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met with Soviet and foreign journalists at the CPSU Central Committee Press Center yesterday.

Anticipating the questions of those gathered there, G. Yanayev spoke in detail about the CPSU Central Committee's role in shaping foreign policy and in the party's international activity under the new conditions when, after the repeal of Article 6 of the Constitution, the role and place of the party in society's life have changed fundamentally. The elaboration of the USSR's foreign policy is now entrusted to state organs and its practical realization to the Foreign Ministry. But the CPSU, as the country's most effective political force today, naturally cannot fail to participate in the formulation of foreign policy strategy and of ways of and approaches toward resolving specific foreign policy problems. The speaker backed up this thought with detailed arguments. Nevertheless, the questions that our foreign colleagues at once put to G. Yanayev showed that journalists are not yet fully accustomed to the new situation, for they sometimes addressed the Politburo member and Central Committee secretary as though the foreign minister were before them.

Replying to a question from RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA as to which priority tasks now face the international workers movement, for all the breadth and certain vagueness of this term, G. Yanayev said:

"I believe that in speaking of the international workers movement we must see the real potential that it has not only to work actively for the defense of working people's social interests but also to integrate itself in the flow of social forces that advocate the resolution of global problems of the present day. I believe that the international workers movement, which, unfortunately, has now been split, is in an analogous situation. This is a legacy of the 'cold war.' For example, the platforms of the three international trade union centers—the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the World Confederation of Labor—on problems of disarmament, foreign debt, ecology, and others are either close or coincide. The paradox is that, at the same time, this is now one of the few social forces which just cannot take joint or even parallel actions. Presidents meet with each other—Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, for example—defense ministers, chiefs of general staffs, and clergymen meet, but the chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and AFL-CIO President Kirkland, for example, still cannot meet. The three general secretaries of the aforesaid international trade union centers still cannot cooperate. This legacy must be overcome. But the split can only be overcome when the efforts of these international trade union and workers organizations are aimed at resolving specific problems and the tasks facing society—global, regional, social, economic, etc. I believe that the course and the logic of historical development and the logic of the struggle of the working class for its interests and for the strengthening of peace and security will make it possible to overcome this historical split, this political anachronism."

Scholars Explore Union Treaty Issues

90UN2602A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by V. Vasilyev and B. Krylov, doctors of legal sciences: "The Kind of Union Treaty We Should Have"]

[Text] A new Union treaty is a recognized need. The first drafts of this document are being prepared. Individual scholars and entire scholarly outfits are involved in this, and the debate on questions of the content of the treaty is at times becoming bitter. But there is as yet insufficient clarity as to what it should be like....

And what, in fact, should this legal enactment be like? We will examine just some problems of, in our view, a conceptual nature. Primarily, the question of the purposes of the Union treaty. It is, perhaps, not only the most important but also the most complex. After all, there are in our society not only supporters of a renewal of the Union state and its development on new terms based on the achievements of perestroyka. A different viewpoint—secession from the Union and a breakup of the present state into a conglomerate of independent states—is quite strong in a number of republics also.

Let us dwell, first, on the significance of the USSR for the development of the market economy and the increased well-being of the country's citizens.

Why are problems of the market economy given priority on this list? Because it is their solution which is most urgent and directly connected with the very existence of the USSR as an association of Union republics. The creation of the broadest possible economic space is essential for an acceleration of the economic development of any society. It is possible within the framework of this space to effect the modern division of labor and thereby reduce expenditure on production. It is known that state borders are associated, as a rule, with the establishment of rules making the development of the economy more difficult by the imposition of import and export quotas and the movement of manpower, the determination of customs dues and so forth. And a single economic space, whose advantages in our country have yet to be manifested in full owing to the absence of market relations, makes it possible to avoid all this. And the development of the latter has been fettered by the administrative system, primarily the diktat of ministries and departments and their extra-economic influence on production.

Under the conditions of the market, however, when the immediate participants in economic processes are the producers—enterprises and economic organizations—the role of an economic space common to the whole of the USSR will undoubtedly grow. Renunciation of it and reduction and isolation in one's own corners could impede the development of the economy and delay for an uncertain length of time emergence from the most difficult situation in which the country finds itself today.

Proposing any other paths means a failure to understand the laws of economic development. We may in this connection address the experience of the EEC. Its members have set themselves the goal of the creation by 1992 of a single economic space. The 12 members of the community have resolved to establish complete freedom for the movement of capital, services, and manpower. We would note that the significance of this measure for competent economists is so obvious that Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Denmark, France, the FRG, and Italy have agreed to abolish economic borders even now, as of 1 July of this year.

Why, then, should we attempt to once again take a road other than that taken by all mankind? And why are such attempts emerging? After all, it is far more prudent to be thinking not about a destruction of the economic relations that have taken shape but about their improvement, primarily the removal of the defects which have accumulated in the country's economic mechanism. The experience of national separatism, in turn, clearly shows what damage is done both to the economy as a whole and to people's living standard by a severance of current (albeit insufficiently consummate, this no one denies) ties.

For what path, then, should our country opt at this critical moment in its history? What to preserve and what to break up? It is necessary first and foremost, as the actual logic of social development dictates, to preserve the USSR.

The level of economic integration in our country is so high that a severance of economic relations would inevitably entail catastrophic consequences. The losses would be particularly great in the republics with limited material resources, natural resources especially. Proceeding from this, it may be maintained that for them the preservation of a single all-Union market and traditional relations is vitally important. That everything on the market should be dictated by the producer himself, not the departments, is another matter.

The market itself will require the observance of a number of conditions. These include primarily recognition of a single all-Union currency or, at least, the convertibility of the republic currencies. The concurrence or proximity of the taxation systems and the economic legislation of all the republics which are a part of the Union and which form the market are essential also.

But there are also other, no less important, circumstances. It should not be forgotten when operating with economic concepts and defining the conditions of the development of the market that a market is only capable of existing when the partners have complete confidence in one another and when there is no hint even of interethnic friction. If we overcome the distrust emanating from the past and if we extinguish the intense passions arising on interethnic grounds, tomorrow even market relations themselves will contribute to an improvement in relations between the republics.

These circumstances should also, it seems to us, be considered upon determination of the content of the future Union treaty. The states that are a part of the USSR must agree on their vision of regulation of the common economy, which is by nature not only interproduction but also interregional. Consequently, a single system in the regulation of transport, communications, and power engineering is essential. Precisely developed mechanisms of this regulation (in the phase of compilation of this treaty even) are essential also.

The security issue. The calamities brought by wars both to the country as a whole and individual republics have not yet been erased from the memory of generations.

Of course, now, as a result of the joint efforts of the international community, the security level in Europe has in recent years grown appreciably. However to maintain it, it is necessary in the meantime to exert constant efforts. Peace is still fragile. We may recall the alarm caused in many European countries by the process of German unification and the revival in this connection of revanchist forces' hopes for a revision of the Oder-Neisse border.

It would under these conditions be imprudent not to reckon with the fact that the preservation of a strong Union is an important stabilizing factor essential for security.

If we turn once again to our recent history, we recall that the USSR emerged in 1922 precisely to secure the continued existence of the sovereign states which were a part of it and create the conditions for their development on the basis of close cooperation and mutual understanding. The long diktat of the center, the strict administrative-command system, and the bureaucratic contrivances of the Union ministries and departments led to a weakening of the independence of the Union republics in the solution of many problems of vital importance to them. And this process was so painful, what is more, that the question was asked: Are the republics still sovereign?

Thus the insistent need for a broadening of the authority of the Union republics is obvious and justified. A number of steps in this direction has already been taken. Specifically, we recall, the USSR laws "Delineation of Authority Between the USSR and the Subjects of the Federation" of 26 April 1990 and "Principles of Economic Relations of the USSR and the Union and Autonomous Republics" of 10 April 1990 have been enacted. We recall also certain republic legislative enactments, for example, the decree of the First Congress of People's Deputies of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] "Delineation of the Functions of the Management of Organizations on the Territory of the RSFSR (Basis of a New Union Treaty)."

We believe that the interests of all parties will be studied and considered in the process of preparation of the new Union treaty. But it is now very often possible to encounter assertions of the following kind: Inasmuch as sovereignty is absolute and cannot be limited, a Union republic cannot be sovereign while it remains part of the USSR.

Is this in fact the case? Let us address the scientific concept of sovereignty. It signifies the supremacy of state authority within a country and its independence in the foreign policy sphere. Sovereignty is characteristic of every state. Encroachment upon it is impermissible, and each state has the right to defend it. This is right, and everyone agrees with this. But at the same time the supporters of the Union republics' secession from the USSR do not even mention the fact that there has never been and cannot be state sovereignty as some absolute. If we address the actual practice of social and state life, we see that a state exists alongside others, primarily its nearest neighbors. It inevitably matches its actions against their policy. The development of interstate relations has led to a point where in our day no power, if it considers itself civilized, can by its actions violate the principles of international law and is obliged to comply with the UN Charter and other international commitments. Thus any state is manifestly limited in the foreign policy sphere.

The USSR, like any other union of sovereign states, may be a stable formation only on condition that it pursues a policy aimed at satisfaction of the interests of all the republics and the citizens who live in them. The development of the Union is possible in an atmosphere of the republics' mutual trust. And if there is something of which we are really in acute need today, it is mutual understanding and trust.

The shortage of them may be made good on the paths which have already been laid by the "rest" of mankind. The state enjoys the trust of its neighbors (and this applies to relations between the Union republics and the USSR and vice versa also) and also the trust of its own citizens if it recognizes and observes the primordial nature of human rights and liberties and considers as its goal their backing in accordance with international rules of law. These rules, specifically, incorporate also the right of all peoples to self- determination. We would note that this right belongs to both large and small peoples and that no one people may be hostage to another.

Thus the state is limited in its actions within a country also. But these are limitations which are necessary in the interests of the citizens and which make it possible to preserve and broaden their rights. And the USSR has advanced considerably in the process of perestroyka in this respect also.

We cannot forget the past. But good sense should lead us forward. It is essential to clearly see and realize that the future of the peoples of our country, the Union republics, and the USSR as a whole consists of the maximum use of the advantages which are afforded us by perestroyka and the development on the basis of them of democracy combining the rights of the majority and consideration of the interests of the minority. This process presupposes a broadening of the rights and liberties of each citizen, regardless of his nationality, political allegiance, nature of occupation, social and property position, education, language, place of residence, and other circumstances. A state that on whatever pretext denies a citizen, association of citizens, and the people the use of rights and liberties that belong to them and that are based on rules of international law cannot be deemed law-based. The laws of the USSR and each state that is a part of it are just only provided that they correspond to these requirements.

Trust in the USSR by the republics that are a part of it, and, accordingly, by the USSR in these republics, may be complete if each party acts within the bounds of the authority determined by the Union treaty. This is an important problem. It is obviously necessary upon conclusion of the future treaty to proceed from the fact that in the general interest the USSR should be a guarantor of the rights and liberties of the citizen and a rise in the level of them in accordance with international pacts and other generally accepted norms.

Determination of the principles of credit-monetary relations, the planning and realization of mutually profitable all-Union programs, and leadership of transport and communications and the defense industry should be concentrated in the hands of the Union. It is essential, it seems to us, to attribute to the authority of the USSR also control of the state of the environment—it has no bounds and has in our time become a universal problem. The Union also needs certain powers in the sphere of defense and security.

No one disputes the fact that the most precise delineation of the functions and jurisdiction of the USSR and the Union republics and also of each individual republic is today essential. But nor can we forget something else here also: The most scrupulous delineation of authority is no guarantee against contentious situations arising. And therefore conditions whereby authorities of the Union are seen as trusted representatives of the Union republics which have endowed them with some of their authority are needed. And, correspondingly, the Union treaty is designed to ensure for the Union republics the possibility of really influencing the activity of the Union authorities, who should be the spokesman for and executants of their common wishes. The role of the chief of state—the president of the USSR relying on the assistance of the Council of the Federation, which incorporates the heads of the Union republics—is undoubtedly great in this respect.

All this, in our view, needs to be reflected in the new Union treaty. Solution of the said questions will serve to build confidence between the Union republics and the USSR. Simultaneously these measures will give a boost not to the declaration but the actual organization of contemporary interethnic relations and an improvement in the economic mechanism.

Is it possible without this to hope for the creation of a state based on the rule of law—the main guarantor of human rights and liberties?

Revenko Discusses Presidential Council's Role

90UN2581A Moscow SOYUZ in Russian
No 31, Aug 90 p 4

[Interview with Presidential Council member Grigoriy Revenko by Yevgeniy Sorokin; place and date not given: "Adversities Are Surmountable If There Is National Accord]

[Text] [Sorokin] What, in your opinion, is the Presidential Council's role in the solution of the problems of perestroyka? Which of these problems can you distinguish as being paramount and the most important and pivotal?

[Revenko] I believe that the role of the Presidential Council, as that of the president, should today consist of reliably ensuring the separation of the three powers: legislative, executive, and judicial. This is difficult. Everything has for a very long time been in single hands, as a rule. And whereas today we talk about party-state and state-party authority—and it remains quite strong—separating this conglomerate created over many years is only practicably possible on the paths that have been proposed. The party is abandoning the monopoly of power, which, albeit with great difficulty, is nonetheless passing to the soviets. The Presidential Council, I am profoundly convinced, should personify, as it were, the unity of these three powers in the name of the people. The government should be thinking about where it should be getting what for the functioning of the state. The Supreme Soviet should be formulating the appropriate laws, and the judiciary should be executing them. The president, on the other hand, should be concentrating primarily on ensuring in the state a decent life for people and should be the guarantor of compliance with human rights and liberties, the guarantor of compliance with the constitution.

Of the problems that are particularly disturbing today I would highlight that of national accord. The immense tasks which have to be tackled in all spheres of our society require unity. Unity on national issues and on economic issues, unity in ethics, spirituality, and morals. Without such unity all our noble aims will remain an empty dream.

A fundamental problem is that of economic transformations. I am disturbed by the unsteadiness of the psychological foundation on which the new, unprecedented reform is to be based. Our people have lived for many years under conditions of strict distribution. Distributive relations are so ingrained that they have become distinctive forms of thinking. All this is reflected in the perception of the market and the awakening of man's interest in labor and in earnings and is delaying progress toward a better life.

We therefore need to think: Is the market possible on the old structures? After all, market relations will undoubtedly reject many central structures, ministries included. This cannot, naturally, fail to affect the fate of many people.

A most important task of the Presidential Council is contributing to the formation of an all-Union market. Not simply a market to which everything is delivered, but a market which has benefits for those who participate in it and penalties for those who behave in an undisciplined manner. We need to contribute also to the development of interrepublic markets. This is all to the good. I see a very democratic composition of the market system. The market should be different, more diverse and rich. Why not, say, sell trucks, finished homes, machine tools and such.

Preparations for the molding of public opinion concerning the market are undoubtedly proceeding very inadequately with us. Attention is concentrated one-sidedly, on the price rises. Of course, when stepping into boiling water it is necessary to guard against scalding oneself. Many people are proposing: Let us adopt the Polish or Hungarian, Japanese or American model. I, however, believe that we need to take from each model the best which might not lead to social upheavals. This, perhaps, is now a most important function of the Presidential Council. We need to strive for the unification of all forces around the reform.

[Sorokin] What is your opinion: Why, when the members of the council were being appointed, did the president's choice stop at your candidacy?

[Revenko] You know, I am constantly being asked this question. It sometimes sounds as though it contains the implication: Why did the president summon me to such, I believe, a very high and very responsible and eternally uneasy office....

[Sorokin] Grigoriy Ivanovich, I would like to explain: I put this question to all members of the Presidential Council.

[Revenko] The president had no personal considerations, say, in respect to me. In 1985 I worked in Moscow, in the CPSU Central Committee. I was involved in the elaboration of the first documents concerning perestroyka. I then worked in, I believe, a very difficult oblast in the Ukraine—Kiev. I had evidently caught the eye in some way of M.S. Gorbachev as president. I would be too self- assured a person were I to declare that I had prepared myself for such a position and was expecting it.... I had quite a comprehensive discussion with the president about my assignments, my functions.

[Sorokin] And with what do you deal specifically on the Presidential Council?

[Revenko] I may put it this way: Questions of the restructuring of our Union. Much is now having to be rethought. We had become accustomed to believing that the Union was with us united and indestructible. But now circumstances are compelling a change in this viewpoint.

It is no secret that the country is in ferment. Interethnic relations are exacerbated. Take the Baltic republics, Moldavia, Western Ukraine. The ambivalent situation in the Transcaucasus, and the many acute conflicts arising in Central Asia. Recently, and I would like to emphasize this, things have been uneasy in Russia....

When one ponders all that is happening, one concludes that our Union needs reforming, that it must be different.

There are today many arguments as to what kind of state it should be: unitary, federal, confederal.... It is these conceptual arguments that disturb me least. I am worried primarily by the arrangement of the Union from the viewpoint of the fate of the peoples inhabiting it. We cannot give way to the emotional upheavals that are being suggested to us sometimes from one, sometimes from the other side. I am for the integrity of the country, for the integrity of our Union. Why? Because it has come about historically that there has on this territory been an integral state, and it has hereby gained for itself respect and strength of position in the world. So why divide it into a ragbag of states?!

Human rights and liberties should be at the center of general attention. If they are flouted, this is in no way a democratic state, and, consequently, it is not that important how it is structured—federally, confederally, or in some other way. The Council of the Federation has proposed the following form: a Union of sovereign states with regard for the specifics of the republic. Of course, each republic has every right to independence and free and equal development. But there is, after all, no absolute freedom, and we need to take account of particular conditions of the present world setup, history, and the interests of all peoples. In principle this means: strong republics equaling a strong Union.

[Sorokin] Grigoriy Ivanovich, you have done Communist Youth League, party, and soviet work. You are well acquainted with work in the apparatus, about which there are now the most contradictory opinions. Your attitude toward this?

[Revenko] I have had an opportunity to analyze the experience of many countries. I have not seen a single state subdivision that does not have an apparatus. I am a supporter of highly qualified people in the apparatus who furnish intellectual power, knowledgeability, and competence.

We have today a tremendous lack of state-minded thinking. Primarily in this same apparatus that is being criticized. I share the viewpoint that the apparatus here is ossified and in need of fundamental transformation—breakup, if you wish. It is necessary to give serious thought to the functions of the apparatus under the new conditions. It is said that apparatchiks do not know the situation below. This is not the case. We need to be talking about something else: about the quality of the people working in the apparatus.

If the people there are incompetent, are unreceptive to what is new, and are not convinced and united by the idea that is being implemented, such an apparatus is of no use whatever. It will be rejected. The quality of administration means the quality of the apparatus and the people to whom these functions have been entrusted.

The party apparatus is coming in for sharp criticism. No, not all is well here. There is an attachment to the old dogmas and stereotypes and a misunderstanding of the new role that society has proposed for the party. This is the main mistake. Undoubtedly, the people who are unreceptive to the new assignments and are unable to work in the new way should quit and give way to others. But not so that they may copy what has gone before! Whereas previously the apparatus issued commands directly, collected information, and interfered with the jurisdiction of others, this is now over. It is now a question of something else. The party apparatus must assist the party in the practical implementation of its policy. Take the market economy. This is not only a concern of business executives but a party concern also for it affects man and social issues.

[Sorokin] Your opinion about opposition: in parliament, in the party....

[Revenko] I believe that we will never return to the "comfortable" conditions that just one party in the country had. There really should be an opposite side, and it may be called an opposition. It is said that the generals of antiquity did not go after total victory but would leave themselves enemies lest they went stale. This is very important.

The realities are such that an announcement about the formation of new parties is made virtually daily. Consequently, we need to be receptive to all colors, not just black and white. The opposition is multicolored. The president has to see everything in the name of the state, in the name of the prosperity of all peoples of our country.

[Sorokin] I would like you to name the people, past and present, who have had the most influence on you as a person—your upbringing and education. Whom do you take as an example in life?

[Revenko] First and foremost, of course, my parents—my mother and father. They were not particularly well-educated people but were very industrious and of high moral standards.

[Sorokin] And where were you born, into what kind of family?

[Revenko] In the village. My father was a rural builder, my mother a collective farm member. My childhood coincided with the war, and the postwar years were difficult also. So I have since childhood been accustomed to working, following my parents' example. And they were for me in the moral sense the indisputable authority.

I have been influenced appreciably by people who are honest and sincere in their motivations and work. I, for example, read and reread with immense pleasure Lev Tolstoy, particularly his diaries and letters. It can be seen how the living thought runs in them, how man reflects. I cannot say that I am a great devotee of the literature that has now emerged, including that which has been standing on the shelves for a long time. But I read it with interest and mental pain. I do not, however, see great literature here, there is much politicization. This literature reveals some negative part or the other of the life of our country and is, in its way, interesting. I consider it necessary in case such things are repeated.

I am keen on historical literature. This helps me find echoes of the present time in the past and to find the truth. When I think about today's intelligentsia, the idea of its tremendous responsibility for the fate of the people always arises. Because, for example, the writer does not have the right to awaken in man his worst qualities. He should mold him as a socially significant being, not one opposed to society. A real work of art should call for a future brighter than the present.

I am much obliged as a person to my schoolteachers. I was fortunate. I always had teachers whom I respected. And they were very respectful toward me.

[Sorokin] How has your private life taken shape? A wife, children? What do they do? How do you resolve problems?

[Revenko] I have a small family: a wife and two daughters. The elder daughter is a cybernetics economist, the younger is studying at the institute, my wife is an engineer.

It is rarely, evidently, that one encounters people who are entirely content with themselves. Nor am I. Time passes quickly, and there is never enough of it. I would like to do more (the situation in the country is serious!), but am not always successful. Everything connected with the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station has given and continues to give me many emotional experiences. I spent several hundred days there. And I will remember this the rest of my life. I am aware of my human responsibility for Chernobyl. At the difficult moment I was together with those who were suffering and tried as best I could to ease their lot.

I am distressed by the pace of our perestroyka. I am distressed by the mistakes that have been made, to some of which, honestly speaking, I am party also. And in my new position my main concern and sincere wish is to overcome more rapidly the difficulties that have now arisen in our country. To ensure that the upper strata link up with the masses in mutual understanding. This is, perhaps, the Presidential Council's greatest concern today.

[Sorokin] Grigoriy Ivanovich, which events of international life would you highlight as having been decisively influenced by the position of our country?

[Revenko] The new thinking has taken possession of minds throughout the world. This is a fact. I believe that the USSR's role in the modern world is, despite all the criticism which is being heard in the West and in our country, for all that, enormous. Are not the social conquests of the broadest working strata of the West a direct consequence of the October Revolution? Has perestroyka not brought about in the world processes that are prompting the West to positive action? We are, for all that, coming closer and closer together in international law on all issues. And take disarmament policy—this was, after all, our idea. All honest politicians in the world can see that a stable situation in the Soviet Union is a guarantee of a stable situation worldwide.

I would like in this connection to mention such a problem as the need for a broadening of relations with social democratic movements in the world. The point being that earlier we were simply in confrontation on many points. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that it is the social democrats that are in power in a number of countries, in Sweden and the FRG, for example. We have differed with them in respect of public ownership of the means of production, the dictatorship of the proletariat, and class struggle. Today we have advanced the proposition concerning the priority of values common to all mankind, and it is meeting with the broad support of the world community. Many emphases are shifting in connection with enactment of new laws on land and property and other legal instruments.

[Sorokin] The final question. Not all that customary, perhaps, but I would like to ask it. Please indicate a situation whereby you would deem it possible to submit your resignation.

[Revenko] I would mention first of all that there should be a well-oiled practice which is an organic part of our system of the resignation of officials. After all, many are remaining in office precisely because there are no normal rules of "quitting the scene." Retirement should not be associated with moral execution. A person should be evaluated by his contributions in work, and we should not cover up mistakes and wait until he exhausts himself. Everyone should have the right to retire. This is in accordance with human dignity and is justified.

[Sorokin] Retirement should, surely, be supported materially also?

[Revenko] Naturally. Because it is precisely the unsolved nature of the question "What after retirement?" that complicates the situation. I believe that, in any event, when a person has ceased to be of use in his position, he is duty bound to fill out a resignation request. This is a difficult moral act, and everyone should prepare himself for it. I, for example, will apply to retire when I see that my ideas and my work are not in keeping with the position which I occupy and when I feel that I am unable to realize myself as a personality.

Kalugin Case Against Gorbachev, Others Outlined

PM2108154990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by S. Mostovshchikov under the rubric "Details for IZVESTIYA": "Former KGB General Files Charges"]

[Text] Former USSR KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin is taking legal proceedings against Mikhail Gorbachev, Nikolay Ryzhkov, and Vladimir Kryuchkov. Complaints of wrongful action by these officials are now with the Moscow City Court.

According to Zoya Korneva, Moscow City Court chairman, these complaints were received by mail a week ago. The postmark indicates that they were mailed 30 July 1990. There are three complaints. The first against the USSR president for illegally—in Oleg Kalugin's viewpoint—depriving him of orders and government awards. The second is against the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers for depriving him of the rank of "KGB major general." And the third is against the USSR KGB chairman for depriving him of a general's pension.

Zoya Korneva says that this is the first time that she has come across a case of this kind, and therefore, mindful of the unusual nature of the complaints, they have not been dealt with formally and referred to the rayon courts on whose territory are located the establishments where the people mentioned in the complaints work. The documents, which the Moscow City Court received from Oleg Kalugin, have been handed over to Nikolay Romanenkov, member of the court, who is to decide whether or not to institute proceedings on the complaints.

Everything is by no means that simple from the viewpoint of existing legislation. Zoya Korneva does not think that a lawyer drew up the complaints. Therefore a number of formalities have not been observed. There are no stamps, for instance, attesting to payment of state tax (10 rubles for each complaint), nor are there the texts of the documents that Oleg Kalugin deems illegal. There are also other purely legal difficulties.

Everything is more or less clear in the case of Nikolay Ryzhkov, against whom the former KGB major general is filing a complaint. This complaint will most probably not be allowed to go forward since in his complaint Oleg Kalugin contests a USSR Council of Ministers resolution and the USSR Council of Ministers is a collegial organ. Consequently complaints against just one of its officials are wrong. Moreover, the Law on the Procedure for Protesting Decisions by Collegial Organs had not entered into force when the resolution mentioned by Kalugin was adopted.

The case of the USSR president is more complex. The member of the Moscow City Court has to answer one small, but extremely difficult question: Is M. Gorbachev an official whose actions can be appealed against in accordance with the USSR law "On the Procedure for Appeals to the Court Against Unlawful Actions by State Management Organs and Officials Infringing Citizens' Rights." There is, admittedly, the USSR Supreme Court plenum resolution of 27 July 1990 which interprets this law. But the plenum said nothing about either the president or the KGB chairman, or even the USSR Council of Ministers, whose standing in law as a state management organ is also obscure.

There is another legal nicety which, in nonlegal language, lies in the following: Before filing a complaint against anyone a person must first complain not to a court but to the boss of the person who violated his rights.

All this requires explanations and they are by no means simple. According to Zoya Korneva, the Moscow City

Court will have an extremely difficult job since it is forbidden in Soviet judicial practice to act according to precedent and accordingly to create any "unplanned" precedents. The case is, however, extremely unusual and is of some interest to professional lawyers since it may be a serious test of current legislation. Hence every detail, however formal it may seem to the casual observer, matters to the court.

The chairman of the Moscow City Court did not make any predictions. She did, however, remark that by law the court must consider the complaint within 10 days. The court can take time to prepare—seven days. Moreover, an adjournment—of up to 20 days—is possible. There is no more time. The court therefore has to meet with Oleg Kalugin or his proxy in order to iron out the formalities. Oleg Kalugin is now known to be in Krasnodar. He has been mailed a summons.

Special Panel To Discuss Press Law Problems

LD2208082390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0030 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] As we know, registration of Union-wide mass media is in progress at the USSR State Committee for the Press. It seemed that all possible options had been examined, yet unexpected problems arose right at the start of this work. They were discussed at a session that assembled not only interested persons, but also legislators, representatives of the USSR Ministry of Justice, and the country's Procuracy and Supreme Court.

The point is that several claimants immediately arose to the role of founder when certain publications were registered. For example, there are four claimants for the magazine ZNAMYA [BANNER]—the USSR Writers' Union, the magazine's editorial collective, the PRAVDA publishing house, and the PRAVDA publishing house's printing office. How is this problem to be tackled? Who has priority? Those present at the gathering spoke about the fact that the practical application of the press law, under which registration is going on, has brought to light a number of circumstances which it did not take into account. It would be perfectly natural if the practice was to make additions and amendments to the law in force, it was noted at the meeting. This would require proposals being sent to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The result of the discussion was a decision to set up a commission of experts, to which representatives of the USSR Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee on Issues of Glasnost, Rights, and Appeals of Citizens, and the State Committee for the Press will belong. The representatives of the commission have been entrusted provisionally with the role of arbitrator on these issues. Those who do not agree with a decision of the commission can report to the court.

Anti-Nuclear Power Movement Criticized

PM1908172090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent V. But, extract from letter from M. Umanets, general director of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station Production Association, and A. Illesh commentary: "New Danger for Nuclear Stations"]

[Text] The builders and operators of the Rostov AES [nuclear power station] could not get to work: The roads to the station were blockaded by pickets, our correspondent V. But reports.

...It all began as follows. Many city and rayon soviets of people's deputies, and later the oblast soviet as well, adopted a decision to stop construction of the Rostov AES. But the final decision on this type of facility rests with the USSR Council of Ministers. It has so far made no decision. Roads to the nuclear station have been closed off and picketed several times already on the initiative of a regional committee set up in Volgodonsk. The aim of the blockade is to make the Council of Ministers adopt a final decision on ending construction work more quickly.

After the latest picketing action the oblast soviet chairman sent a telegram to N. Ryzhkov requesting that funding and construction stop immediately—public protest is growing! The text of the telegram was published in the oblast newspaper, and, it would seem, should have placated passions. But the regional citizens' committee again applied to the Volgodonsk Gorispolkom [City Soviet Executive Committee] for permission to carry out a picketing action. This was refused....

Nevertheless, about 1,500 men drove to the AES early in the morning. They refused to allow vehicles carrying building materials into the station. Fortunately there were no particular outrages: More than 100 militia workers who had been brought in kept order. They explained to people that their actions were against the law....

In the afternoon an extended session of the gorispolkom was held, at which a telegram from L. Ryabev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on halting construction of the AES was read out. A proposal that picketing be called off was put to the members of the regional citizens' committee invited to the session. They agreed, and action was called off at the end of the day.

Yet after all, the oblast leaders already knew that the chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers had already requested the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers by telegram to halt construction not later than 1 September, not to deliver any nuclear fuel there, and to examine the options for supplying the region with electricity... And the Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation and the Nuclear Industry is now determining the procedure and timetable for mothballing the station. But not many people know this. And if the population had been notified of it promptly, perhaps passions would not have reached such a pitch. Possibly the recent unsanctioned action would not have occurred.

There is no need to explain: When a crowd is ruled by emotion, the law is forgotten. But the AES administration remembered it: If we appeal to the courts, the picket organizers will be held responsible for the three-day stoppage. The losses run into millions.

Who will pay this money?

From a letter from M. Umanets, General Director of the "Chernobyl AES" Production Association

...I considered it my duty to write to the newspaper in connection with recent critical events. I am talking about the picketing of the operating Khmelnitskiy AES and the rally held in Kiev at which calls for the immediate closure of the Chernobyl AES were heard.

I am certain that the vast majority of participants in these actions do not know many of the circumstances and are unaware of the whole truth. It is as follows:

Today the collective working at the station consists mainly of people who came here, to the epicenter of the accident, after the tragic events of 1986. They are all fulfilling their duty, and in my view deserve respect at the very least. It is they who go every day into the zone to monitor the destroyed No. 4 power unit and to carry out a technical process on the three functioning units. About 10 percent of all the energy that is generated in the Ukraine today goes into the power supply with their help. And without them, both the very operation of the AES and its safe shutdown are inconceivable.

I do not intend to start campaigning for nuclear power. The people of the Ukraine and their body of deputies have made their choice—the decision for a nuclear moratorium and the closure of the Chernobyl AES has been adopted. This decision provides for the work of a government commission, incorporating scientific and technological forces, to determine a package of measures and acceptable deadlines for the decommissioning of the power units and to ensure nuclear and radiation safety at all stages of the operation.

Today only a considered and balanced approach is possible. The demand for the immediate shutdown of the AES drives us into a corner and pushes us toward catastrophe. What does it mean, a station shut down just before the onset of winter, a station where, in particular, there are 1,600 canisters [kassety] of spent nuclear fuel? The AES is heated mainly from the operating reactors and hence will simply freeze!

Signs are often posted up in buses or streetcars saying: "Do Not Talk to the Driver While the Vehicle Is Moving." But in the case of the Khmelnitskiy AES (IZVESTIYA reported in No. 197 [15 July] that the pickets prevented the station personnel from getting to work), the driver of the "nuclear streetcar" was physically restrained and his family was threatened! Is it possible in such a case to talk of traffic safety for passengers and pedestrians? The organizers of these violent actions, which do not allow the minimum necessary moral and psychological conditions for AES workers to be maintained, must assume the responsibility for breakdowns, stress, and their possible consequences.

Our Commentary

[Illesh] The situation that emerged immediately following the biggest nuclear disaster of the 20th century—Chernobyl—turned the country's public awareness upside down. From admiring (from a distance) nuclear stations and believing unconditionally (without reasoned argument to back up this belief) that these stations can be built anywhere, even on Red Square itself, we all radically altered our views, horrified by the tragedy. So radically did our views alter that today many campaigners against nuclear power, as events show, present just as much danger as the USSR's not fully modernized AES network or the low-quality equipment still being delivered to these facilities.

The pendulum of admiration and trust has swung toward hatred and complete hostility. This, alas, was an inevitable outcome.

Deceit based on secrecy (or secrecy based on deception of the people) has led to the picketing of stations becoming an almost commonplace occurrence these days. For years on end we were all fed disinformation by the departments that concentrate in their hands all genuine information about the benefits (which are indisputable) and the dangers (which are also real enough) from existing stations and stations under construction. The result of this policy is, on the one hand, the nuclear phobia which has gripped society. On the other hand, the impossibility of properly planning the development of one of the most promising energy sources... And the complete mistrust toward even those experts who today are trying to tell the truth.

It is absurd but true that the people taking to the streets in fear of a repetition of Chernobyl are pushing their neighbors who work at nuclear stations toward a repetition of the catastrophe.

And not just the economy, but, I am sure, the country's political system simply could not withstand a second Chernobyl.

The distrust of our experts' opinion is obvious. Indeed, the experts themselves, because of the structures still in force (departmental affiliation, departmental instructions, and so forth) are not always sincere, and do not always know how and about what to talk to an extremely agitated people. How do they act in the West in these cases? Last year 169,000 people visited the specialized nuclear center in Sellafield—next to a potentially dangerous plant. What made it possible to achieve not nuclear phobia, but a stream of tourists? Here is the opinion of R.J. Cartwright, administrator at this, the biggest nuclear plant in Britain: "To achieve a positive response from the public it is above all necessary to cooperate effectively with the public. The effectiveness of this cooperation is determined by three principal factors—honesty, openness, and activity.

"The concept of honesty requires no explanation. If we, as people involved in the nuclear industry, are honest when things are not going entirely well for us, then people will believe us even when things are going excellently. If we prove, to ourselves in the first place, that we deserve trust, then others too will be inclined to trust us.

"The second important component of effective cooperation is openness. All too often in the past, nuclear industry representatives the world over have spoken to people in a language that they do not understand. To blind people with science is just as bad as deceiving them with silence.

"The third aspect of the problem is an active, energetic standpoint. And it is far more difficult to carry this out than it is to simply confront people. Anyone who occupies a negative position vis-a-vis public opinion can expect only unpleasantness."

...But meanwhile activity is mainly coming from the other side. An activity that is extremely dangerous. The other day a representative of the "Greens" from Rostov Oblast came into the editors' office. In his hands was a scrap of paper with an ultimatum. Briefly, the gist of the demands is as follows: Unless the question of the Rostov AES is resolved literally within days, they are prepared to sit on the rails in order to block off the railroad leading to Moscow....

It is hardly necessary to explain the consequences of such a step.

Andreyev Commentary Assails RSFSR's Polozkov

PM1708154390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Nikolay Andreyev "Political Diary": "Thoughts of One Who 'Lives on His Wages'"]

[Text] We live in our own country as though we are in a strange land. You feel like an exile, a refugee, a person moved to a disaster zone. For decades people have not known what it is to lead a normal life and to work for pleasure. The Soviet person cannot even imagine life without tremendous lines for the simplest foods and goods. For him everything is a problem—housing, vacations, medicine, culture.... And so, looking to the future, you seek a ray of hope. You seek it so as not to lose faith in life once and for all. Is there a reliable political force that can save the people and the country? You listen attentively to people who assume responsibility for our destiny—is it possible to believe them?

"We must, we are simply obliged to go back to the roots and tell the people loud and clear: Yes, there is such a party!"—we heard from the pages of PRAVDA the voice of such a courageous man. He is Ivan Kuzmich Polozkov, first secretary of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party Central Committee. Society has a complex attitude toward this political figure. Polozkov became widely known for his anticooperative statements in Krasnodar Kray. He endeavored to squeeze the maximum political capital out of the inflated campaign over the ANT [Automation Science and Technology] cooperative. He aspired to the post of chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. He is abrupt in his assessments. To judge from the interview in PRAVDA, he intends to turn the RSFSR Communist Party into a party of like-minded people. He is firmly convinced that this party is cut out for the role of savior of the homeland.

There would be nothing reprehensible in this pretension if Ivan Kuzmich's intentions were based on political, economic, and psychological realities and not on the prejudices of the least aware section of the population. These are his prescriptions for salvation: to champion class principles until his final breath; to do away with the "influence of Western bourgeois thought;" to expose the internal bourgeoisie, which "creeps toward power," and so forth in the same spirit. How familiar! We have had all this before in our history: implacable struggle, exposures, the implementation of class principles with an iron hand. And what is the result? As one poet put it, we have "a country on a particularly large scale and without definite occupations."

You would think it unseemly to reproduce in slogans the dogma which asserts that with the help of the dictatorship of the proletariat—"the highest form of democracy"—it is possible to build a just and happy society. It has demonstrated its complete and utter bankruptcy. And the new CPSU Statutes have rejected the priority of class interests. Because, if you think about it, it is essentially immoral to worship the interests of a particular class, since it all ends, in the final analysis, with one part of the population being stirred up against others. The lesson of this experiment conducted in our country is too tough to continue it any longer. However, Ivan Kuzmich insists on this. What is more, he links the party's very existence to the class approach. "Should the party maintain class standpoints, without counterposing them to panhuman standpoints?" I. Polozkov reflects. "This is where the watershed lies today. And, to talk on the grand scale, it is here that the border between life and elimination lies today for the CPSU." A somewhat obscure phrase, although it resounds with tragic anguish.

But does I. Polozkov evaluate the situation accurately? Whether or not the party survives depends, above all, on its sober assessment of its role and place in modern reality, its choice of action program, its modus operandi, and its ability to speak with the masses. And the party's ability to assume responsibility for everything that has happened in the country in the past 70 years. To all appearances, I. Polozkov is not ready for this. And, in general, he does not wish to speak about this—about responsibility. No way will he part with the illusion that the party is the elite of society, the combat detachment destined to rebuff enemies' intrigues.

The party will be able to remain an appreciable force in the political arena if it offers a program of economic transformations which accords with people's interests. It is possible to infer from the interview and his other statements that I. Polozkov's program boils down to the following: He is against the market economy and against any transformations that promote private initiative in the economic sphere. At the same time, however, he demands goods, food, and a developed services sphere. And when there is an abundance of all this, the party will come along and share it all out fairly. I am not exaggerating at all and, in confirmation, I will cite an extensive passage from the interview, which eloquently illustrates this simple approach:

"In particular, in conditions of growing shortages and rising prices, we are talking about putting the question this way: guaranteed supplies to the working class! I will not undertake to judge now in what form to best implement this demand—in the form of cards, rations, and coupons or in some other way. Here too it is essential to apply collective reasoning, it is necessary to work in close contact with the trade unions. But I am convinced that solving this task is essential: The working class, the peasantry, the labor intelligentsia—once again, all those who 'live on their wages' and truly suffer in conditions of very severe shortages—must be given guarantees of the provision of essential everyday food products and goods.... Moreover, I include, of course, in the category 'essential and everyday goods' television sets, refrigerators, and other consumer durables without which it is impossible to get by in everyday life today." This solicitousness is really touching. Only he does not explain where all these good things will come from.

And again I will remind you that this is a repeat of something we went through long ago. This is a throwback to the old times: The ideological superstructure appropriated the right to distribute public wealth. And the people had to be grateful to it for everything. Ivan Kuzmich Polozkov intends to preserve and strengthen that order. Not to produce but to distribute—what could be more entrancing! This was how the party's monopoly on power was manifested. And in this system it was very convenient to turn the immediate producer—the worker, the peasant, the intellectual working person—into state property. Obedient and content with everything. But times have changed. They have changed very greatly. There is no longer an obedient and submissive work force. It has been awakened to a sense of its own dignity. The working class now intends to own the means of production itself, without intermediaries. It is altogether difficult to expect socialist production to be efficient if the people employed in it are not interested in the results of their labor. But precisely this is the option on which I. Polozkov insists. He rejects one of the fundamental human rights—to have freedom of economic choice, without which production stiffens and dies.

Ivan Kuzmich is certain that all our misfortunes stem from shortcomings in explanatory activity: "It is not a question of defending ideological dogmas but of formulating and making people aware of the humane essence of developing Marxism-Leninism and the truth about the party's policy...." It turns out that the people themselves are unable to comprehend the truth about the party and that the party must explain it and make them aware of it. In general, all problems strike Ivan Kuzmich as extremely simple. Things are bad in the countryside? Material and technical injections into this sphere are needed. No goods? Cooperative members are to blame. Do we need a market? No, because "the Russian people are not ready for the transition to a market economy." And so forth.

Some of Ivan Kuzmich's utterances strike to the depth of your soul. For example, he admitted to the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies: "They took me into the apparatus and move me about it." It is somehow even strange to hear such admissions from the man who aspired to hold the very responsible post of chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. Or another admission of his at a CPSU Central Committee plenum. He complained to his party comrades: "Local organs received neither proper guidelines nor practical advice from the Central Committee's departments and press organs." That is, it turns out that the leader of one of the biggest party organizations cannot adopt decisions independently without instructional guidelines from the Central Committee or an editorial article in PRAVDA.

Ivan Kuzmich Polozkov reacts badly to what's written about himself and believes that the mass media take an unscrupulous approach to coverage of his views. And he feels as though he is in a besieged fortress: "However hard people may try to deny it today, there is a parliamentary-journalistic cooperative lobby. It now has a favorable law, mass media, money, and, thus, real power. Whoever has gotten in the way of this international and Soviet mafia has already felt and is feeling every day the impact of massive pressure, blackmail, and threats, even including physical influence...." Tempers in society are stern, and Ivan Kuzmich has a hard time.

Ivan Kuzmich is very concerned about the interests of those who "live on their wages." Do not think that he means himself. He does not receive a wage at all. He lives on a salary. Russia's Communists pay for his labor. So far they have been paying only for Ivan Kuzmich's promises. But his interview ends on an energetic note: "We intend to act, act, and act."

Procuracy Highlights Interethnic Basis for Crime

LD2108195190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Today an expanded sitting of the Collegium of the USSR Procuracy took place in Moscow. It noted that over the last 2.5 years 946 people have been killed in interethnic conflicts and 8,652 have been injured. A total of 4,648 pogroms have been carried out. According to the most modest calculations the material damage amounts to almost R10 billion. Forced migration of the population was of an enormous scale. Almost 600,000 people have abandoned places of permanent residence. The problems of refugees has touched upon eight Union republics and half of Russia's regions. In this situation certain forces quite easily instigate acts of civil disobedience and disorganize the economy.

The situation in Tuva Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was presented as an example. There are 6,000 unemployed in the republic, and 2,000 people cannot find jobs. Annually over 40 percent of graduates of schools and vocational technical schools remain unemployed. At the same time, specialists are constantly arriving in Tuva with jobs and accommodations; who are provided with housing and other social provisions. Hence the conflicts, and the growth of crime. Absence of a fully developed legislative basis during transition to the market and slackening of discipline and order—without which civilized economic and consequently human relations are impossible—have a negative effect on the matter of things. Interethnic problems must be tackled by a government program.

Statistics Show Crime Rate Up

LD2108195690 Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The crime rate in the Soviet Union in the first half of 1990 continued to rise in every republic, except Azerbaijan, Soviet deputy federal procurator Vladimir Kravtsev said today.

A total of 1,263,323 crimes were registered during the six months, which was 14.6 per cent more than in the same period last year. This includes 206,000 grave crimes, or nearly 22 per cent more than in 1989. Some 7,000 criminal offenses are committed every day now, as compared with less than 5,000 three years ago, Kravtsev said.

Speaking at a meeting of the leadership of the national procurator's office to discuss the crime situation and ethnic clashes in the country, he said Armenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia and the Ukraine are the hardest hit by crime.

The police uncovered 921 gangs and over 195,000 criminals in the first six months of 1990. This included 16 criminal groups involving law enforcement officers, Kravtsev revealed.

The meeting, attended by Rafik Nishanov, chairman of the parliament's Council of Nationalities, adopted a programme of urgent measures to fight crime. It gives priority to preventing grave crimes of violence and theft and combating grey economy dealers provoking goods shortages.

Civil Aviation Minister Views Improving Service

LD1808203790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 18 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Tomorrow is USSR Air Fleet Day. It is celebrated by military and civilian pilots, scientists, designers, and aviation specialists. There are many unresolved, acute problems in Aeroflot's activities. Our correspondent Leonid Elin conversed with USSR Minister of Civil Aviation Boris Yegorovich Panyukov.

[Elin] Boris Yegorovich, in recent years Aeroflot has failed to provide services for almost 20 million passengers annually. What is the solution to this situation?

[Panyukov] In order to improve the level of service for passengers, we require new aviation technology, additional resources of aviation fuel, and active work in modernizing our airports. The material and technical basis is thus key.

We have made such proposals to the government. An instruction to establish a state program to develop the country's civil aviation has now been given.

[Elin] It is as if you can do nothing without new aviation technology?

[Panyukov] That is absolutely correct. For this reason we have great hopes in what we are awaiting—although there is a small delay, it is true, in the schedules established for aircraft production: the Il-96-300, Tu-204, Il-114, which in their fuel efficiency are close to the world's modern aircraft. [video shows two men talking and then photographs of each of the planes mentioned]

[Elin] I would like you to touch on the increase in air communications between the ussr and the United States.

[Panyukov] Well, speaking of unsatisfied demand on international air routes, we would like to stress where this is the case. It is on routes between the USSR and the United States, and between the USSR and a number of West European countries. In 1991 the frequency of flights by both our airplanes and U.S. airplanes will increase several times.

The second important part of this inter-governmental agreement is the broadening of the geography of flights. We have received the right to fly our planes to—in addition to Washington, New York, and Chicago—San Francisco, Miami, and Anchorage.

[Elin] And the Americans?

[Panyukov] The Americans, in their turn, have received the right to fly to—in addition to Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev—Minsk, Riga, Tbillisi, Khabarovsk, and

Magadan. In the next few years demand for air travel between our country and the United States will be completely satisfied.

We are also prepared to begin flights to Israel. There are many problems which need to be solved both in this country and abroad.

[Elin] Yes, because Aeroflot is part of our country's economy. [video shows the two men talking]

Government Completes Draft Program for Disabled

LD1908192990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The country's government has completed work on the draft of foundations for legislation of the USSR and Union republics on social protection for the disabled and the conception of the main areas of state policy on problems of disability in the USSR. All the Union republics participated in their preparation. The draft envisages securing the creation of equal opportunities for the disabled equal to those of other citizens in all spheres of life. The documents will be submitted for examination by the country's Supreme Soviet.

Gorbachev Signs Ilichev Obituary

LD2008125190 Moscow TASS in English 1141 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Top Soviet diplomat and scholar, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary Leonid F. Ilichev, who served as deputy foreign minister for nearly a quarter of a century, died last Friday at the age of 84.

The obituary, signed by Mikhail Gorbachev, Nikolay Ryzhkov and other Soviet leaders, says that he was distinguished by his vast knowledge, capacity for work, high professionalism, a strong sense of responsibility and a penchant for new ideas.

Ilichev, a Communist Party member since 1924, held a doctorate in philosophy and was a full member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Born on March 15, 1906, in Krasnodar, he graduated from the North Caucasian Communist University. After initially taking up a teaching job, he spent many years working on the central press. In 1949-1953, Ilichev was first deputy editor-in-chief and then editor-in-chief of PRAVDA.

In 1953, he was made head of the Press Department and a member of the collegium of the Foreign Ministry. He then worked as a department head at the Communist Party Central Committee and later as a Central Committee secretary and chairman of the Central committee Ideological Commission.

In 1965, Ilichev was appointed deputy foreign minister and remained in the post until 1989.

'Echo of Moscow' Radio To Begin Broadcasts 22 Aug

LD2208082490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Ekho Moskviy [Echo of Moscow] a new, independent radio station, will go on the air for the first time at 1900 [1500 GMT] this evening. One of its founders is the Moscow City Soviet. The radio station has been registered as No. 1 among the Moscow mass media.

Comparison of Gorbachev's Odessa Speech

PM2008114790

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 19 August 1990 carries in its Second Edition on pages 1 and 2 the speech delivered by USSR President Gorbachev in Odessa 17 August. The PRAVDA version, entitled "Worthily Overcoming the Obstacle in the Country's History; M.S. Gorbachev's Speech in Odessa Military District," has been compared with the translation of the Moscow TV Russian version published on pages 42-49 of the 20 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, revealing the following variations:

Page 42, column one, paragraph two, PRAVDA version begins: [Text] Esteemed Comrades!

I accepted with interest Defense Minister Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov's invitation to visit the troop exercises.

During the exercises we exchanged impressions and assessments. You will sum up the specific results and draw conclusions at service conferences.

Soviet servicemen bear an.... (adding passage, substituting "Soviet" for "Sovereign," picking up paragraph two, first sentence)

Same paragraph, sentence one, PRAVDA reads: ...of the state. As president of.... (deleting second sentence)

Page 42, column one, paragraph three, sentence one, PRAVDA reads: ...thoughts and all practical activities in.... (deleting "political and")

Same paragraph, sentence four, PRAVDA reads: ...threshold of fundamental transformations of its.... (deleting "revolutionary")

Same paragraph, sentence six, PRAVDA reads: ...formation of the structures of a.... (deleting "democratic")

Page 42, column one, paragraph four, sentence one, PRAVDA reads: ...changes has begun.

Public opinion has.... (deleting sentences two and three of paragraph four, picking up paragraph five, sentence one)

Page 42, column two, first partial paragraph, last sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...behind these positions.

By dwelling on.... (picking up first full paragraph of column two on page 42, deleting phrase)

Page 42, column two, fourth complete paragraph, sentence one, PRAVDA reads: ...life to socialism through the profound reformation of the country's economic and political system and through the.... (adding phrase)

Page 43, column one, last paragraph, sentence three, PRAVDA reads: ...at first glance. I cannot agree with the reasoning by those who insist that we should start everything from scratch and return virtually to the stage of initial accumulation.

This would be the.... (rewording, picking up column two, paragraph one on page 43)

Page 44, column one, third complete paragraph, sentence one, PRAVDA reads: ...own economic interests. This work will also overcome the leveling mentality and parasitism which are veritably shackling society and standing in the way of the speediest surmounting of the crisis afflicting it. What is facing us.... (adding sentence)

Same paragraph, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...and people's interests.

In short, in.... (deleting sentence three of paragraph three, picking up paragraph four, sentence one)

Page 44, column one, fifth paragraph, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...in great disarray. Despite all the difficulties today we must try to do everything to ensure that we complete the present economic year with the best, highest possible results. It is only in the framework of such a stabilization that we can move decisively toward the market.

The distinctive feature.... (rewording, picking up column two, first complete paragraph, sentence one)

Page 44, column two, second complete paragraph, sentence five, PRAVDA reads: ...and peasants' movement.

The acute tension.... (deleting last two sentences of paragraph two, picking up paragraph three, sentence one)

Page 44, column two, fourth complete paragraph, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...and political work. For all of.... (deleting phrase)

Page 45, column one, first partial paragraph, second complete sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...also obvious that the situation is.... (deleting "the acute nature of")

Same paragraph, fifth complete sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...need for it. I can in no way agree with this. In conditions of... (adding sentence)

Page 45, column one, first complete paragraph, sentence three, PRAVDA reads: ...is being analyzed. The document must.... (deleting sentence)

Same paragraph, sentence eight, PRAVDA reads: ...course of history. Over many centuries.... (deleting two sentences)

Page 45, column two, second complete paragraph, penultimate sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...this is the natural, sovereign right of the people itself, and I think the people are going to insist on this.

We know what.... (adding "natural," deleting last sentence, picking up third complete paragraph)

Page 45, column two, paragraph three, penultimate sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...tasks in isolation.

Moreover, it would.... (deleting last sentence, picking up paragraph four, sentence one)

Page 46, column one, first complete paragraph, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...a world power. I am not.... (deleting sentence and editorial note)

Same paragraph, sentence four, PRAVDA reads: ...about by history. Our influence can be explained by the fact that perestroyka within the.... (deleting sentence, rewording)

Page 46, column two, paragraph three, sentence one, PRAVDA reads: ...the whole world.

And are there.... (deleting last sentence of paragraph three)

Page 46, column two, paragraph six, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...the Soviet Army. Incidentally, at the.... (deleting editorial note, last two sentences of paragraph six, paragraph seven, and first sentence of paragraph eight; picking up paragraph eight, sentence two)

Page 48, column one, second complete paragraph, sentence five, PRAVDA reads: ...is now over and the need has naturally emerged for reform. We have changed our military doctrine and from that it follows that we now have to change the structure.... (rewording)

Page 49, column one, paragraph five, sentence four, PRAVDA reads: ...promotion of commanders. They are pointing.... (deleting phrase)

Page 49, column two, first partial paragraph, first complete sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...any old job. Such a person.... (deleting phrase)

Same paragraph last sentence and last paragraph last sentence in PRAVDA delete "[applause]" notation.

Economic

Official Discusses New State Property Fund

PM2108124990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with S. Assekritov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission on Economic Reform, by I. Demchenko; place and date not given: "Monopolist Against Monopolism?"—first paragraph is an editorial introduction]

[Text] The press has published the USSR president's decree "On the Formation of a USSR State Property Fund." IZVESTIYA asked S. Assekritov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission for Economic Reform, to comment on it.

[Assekritov] Economic laws adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet and USSR Council of Ministers decisions have created preconditions for the vigorous development of market relations within the country. A flood of enterprising people have rushed into the sector of the economy that is founded on nonstate forms of ownership. The government considers it necessary to do its utmost to support their initiative.

But on the other hand, we cannot allow state property to be squandered. Privatization must be combined with defense of the state sector's interests. These considerations dictated the initiative of the government which submitted a proposal to the USSR president to create a special body to ensure these functions.

The fund is not a ministry or a state committee but a new structural formation which will effectively constitute a super-departmental organ of state management.

[Demchenko] What powers does it have?

[Assekritov] The fund will have executive power to adopt decisions regarding the formation of state Union property. Moreover, it will determine the value of property along with the sectors and enterprises where the state should retain a controlling block of shares. The fund will express the interests of the state as the owner of these shares.

It can be said to be faced with a twofold task—that of creating and implementing a program for privatizing property and at the same time safeguarding the state's property rights and interests. At first glance, these two conditions cannot be combined within a single organization. But since the fund is the sole state shareholder and is interested in dividends, it is simply compelled to react to every change and seek economically advisable conditions for capital investment. Things that are advantageous should be sold, and funds obtained from the sale should be invested in bolstering the state sector.

As a very major shareholder the fund will have a most major effect on the state of the securities' market and will regulate capital transfer, and so on. It can pursue a very active antimonopoly policy and help create competitive systems.

[Demchenko] I had the opinion, on the contrary, that in this fund we will be getting the biggest monopolist in our history. It is well known that the right to dispose of property on behalf of the state is now delegated to ministries and departments. Disputes between enterprises and superior organs over withdrawal from the sectoral structure are examined at arbitration. As I understand it, the fund is usurping the right to dispose of state property single-handedly, and its decisions will not be subject to appeal.

[Assekritov] Ministries are gradually dying out as an administrative structure. This is not only because the press is actively promoting this, but because this is an objective process. In market conditions management structures must be transformed in line with economic requirements. For the present, as stipulated in the decree, the fund is authorized to temporarily delegate the right to manage property under all-Union ownership to other organs, ministries included.

As you know, all legislative acts stipulate the right of labor collectives to appeal to the courts if they disagree with a decision. I think that this procedure should be retained, although mindful of the nontraditional nature of the question and judicial organs' certain degree of incompetence on them [plural as published], it would be advisable to give the fund the right to the final decision as the sole representative of the state's interests.

[Demchenko] I see another monopolist tendency on the part of the fund—you stress that it will be the sole controlling shareholder in a number of economic sectors.

[Assekritov] Unlike a monopolistic producer who influences the market by fixing prices and the quantity of output supplied and determining the technical characteristics of goods to its own advantage, the fund has an economic monopoly which is essentially designed to destroy the producer's diktat.

[Demchenko] Will the fund manage state property on behalf of the supreme legislative organ?

[Assekritov] At first glance, that would be logical since the USSR Supreme Soviet represents the interests of the whole population and one would think that public property should be at its disposal by putting the fund under its command. But the legislative organ must not, in our view, be involved in day-to-day regulation otherwise it will not have time for its main activity.

We think that according to the logic of things the fund should be subordinate to the Council of Ministers. In order to ensure that the legislative organ does not lose power with the transfer of the right to manage property, the first point of the decree stipulates that the fund's powers are to be determined by the USSR president at the submission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

News Conference Views Civil Aviation Problems

OW2208063690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Report by Leonid Elin from the "120 Minutes" program]

[Text] Tomorrow is USSR Air Fleet Day. Last year, 132 million passengers were carried, yet more than 20 million people failed to get Aeroflot airline tickets. While there is a deficit, it is difficult to solve the question of improving the quality of passenger services both in the air and on the ground. What are the prospects for work in this branch? Here is what Leonid Elin has to report: [Video shows press conference at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

[Begin recording] [Elin] Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR MID [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] press conference were addressed by: Goryashko, first deputy minister of Civil Aviation; Batkov, chief of one of the administrations of Minaviaprom [Ministry of the Aviation Industry]; and Tikhonov, chief of the Aeroflot International Commercial Administration.

There were very many questions. The main ones were: When will aircraft capable of competing with foreign ones appear on air routes? Will the level of tariffs on Union and international flights change? And questions about the level of flight safety.

Aleksey Markianovich Goryashko noted that, if prices on fuel, materials, and equipment increase, then naturally the costs of airline tickets will also go up. But, this issue must be resolved by the Government and Parliament. The level of flight safety in our airliners is by no means lower than, say, that of the American's. It was reported that many MGA [Ministry of Civil Aviation] administrations had already received the right to engage in international ties independently. Independent airlines are being established, including Bashkir, Lithuanian, and others.

Nevertheless, the main shortcoming was the inadequate material base, a lack of economical, aircraft. This is why we are leasing foreign A-300 airliners. [Elin] It seems to me that the purchase of A-300 aircraft is a result of the fact that our aviation industry, as far as I know—and I have already had an opportunity to fly on the Il-96—lags behind the rhythm needed for civil aviation. That is why I have a direct question for Aleksandr Mikhaylovich [Batkov] and Aeroflot too: When can we expect the appearance of Il-96-300 aircraft and Tu-204 on Aeroflot routes and not just on test flights?

[Batkov] Previous estimates mentioned 1990. Currently, the experience of flight tests on these aircraft indicates that we are some six to eight months behind in this work. We hope that the Il-96 and Tu-204 aircraft will begin carrying passengers in the third quarter of 1991.

[Goryashko] At the the end of 1991, we expect to see the Il-96-300, an aircraft seating 300 passengers, on regular routes. If we compare it to aircraft such as the Il-62M in terms of fuel efficiency—it will burn 47 to 48 grams per passenger/kilometer—of course, the efficiency of this aircraft is much higher than those that we are using.

[Elin] So, we must wait until the end of 1991. Yet, these aircraft are already needed today. Could it be that a shift to a market economy and competition with the foreign A-300 will jolt our industry? Questions and more questions and millions of passengers wait for replies in deeds, not words. [end recording]

Romanyuk Comments on Small Business Resolution

PM2108103590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Commentary by V. Romanyuk: "Set Up Small Enterprises"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers recently adopted a resolution on measures for setting up and developing small enterprises.

IZVESTIYA has already commented on the draft resolution. The additional work on the draft was mainly concerned with the mechanism for implementing the new principles of economic management and also with the procedures for setting up small enterprises. Fundamental amendments have also been made, however, which we will discuss below.

For the present, let us note the most important point: Every one of us now has the right to set up an enterprise, including an individual "private" enterprise. According to the resolution, the following are classed as small enterprises: industrial and construction enterprises employing up to 200 people; enterprises in science and scientific services employing up to 100 people; enterprises in other sectors of the production sphere employing up to 50 people; enterprises in the nonproduction sphere employing up to 25 people; and retail trade enterprises employing up to 15 people. These enterprises may be established on the basis of any form of ownership—including joint forms—by citizens and members of their families; persons jointly engaged in a labour partnership, state, leasehold, collective, and joint enterprises; and social organizations.

Enterprising people will no longer have to wander from office to office in pursuit of a permit: The resolution is based on the principle of registration rather than authorization. A small enterprise acquires the rights of a legal entity from the day of registration with a soviet of people's deputies executive committee. The forms, systems, and rates of labor remuneration as well as other forms of workers' income are decided independently on the basis of legislation.

The resolution preserves equal rights and conditions of economic management for small enterprises, irrespective of their form of ownership. With regard to small joint ventures established on Soviet territory with the participation of Soviet and foreign legal entities and citizens, they will be governed by legislation on joint ventures. It has also been decided to set up a committee to support small enterprises within the framework of the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission on Economic Reform. At the same time, the government has submitted a draft resolution "On the General Principles of the Activity of Small Enterprises" to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

I called an enthusiastic supporter of the idea of developing small enterprises: D. Levchuk, head of the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission on Economic Reform Secretariat.

"This is one of the most fundamental steps taken so far in the direction of a market economy," Dmitriy Georgiyevich said. "Essentially we are talking about the creation of a market environment with all its components, benefits, and specific conditions. Everything done so far has amounted to nothing more than palliative decisions and attempts to build a market economy in the conditions of a state-edict, strictly monopolist system which in principle rejects the idea of small business in the Soviet Union. Now, however, we will be getting a socially regulated market economy, with social protection and social guarantees."

In civilized countries, the small business network is made up of hundreds of thousands, even millions of "private" enterprises. But at present, the USSR Union of Small Enterprises only has just over 1,000 member-collectives. However, the transition to regulated market relations and support for enterprise require the more rapid establishment of a network of small enterprises capable of galvanizing the structural reorganization of the economy, providing broad freedom of choice and additional jobs, ensuring rapid recovery of expenditure, and responding promptly to changes in demand.

A very great deal is going to depend on the stand taken by local soviets and on the timely resolution by republic and local bodies of the problems of providing land, nonresidential buildings and premises, tax benefits, and subsidies. All this is within their competence and cannot be regulated by Union bodies.

Although not covered by the resolution, there is still the question of settling problems concerning labour relations in private enterprises—between the owners and the hired work force. This is a matter that must be resolved without delay.

Finally a few words about something that seems distressing. The draft provided for the possibility of redistributing resources between the state and market sectors of the economy. It was even planned to set up centralized funds of material-technical resources to support small enterprise. This would have rectified the mistake made during the formation of cooperatives which essentially were cut off from state resources. However, judging by the final version of the resolution, small enterprises are also going to be cut off from centrally allocated resources. It is assumed that small enterprises will get their resources on the market, which means that once again the state sector will have indisputable advantages while small business will be left on the sidelines.

Presumably, when studying the draft law on small enterprise in the Soviet Union, parliamentarians will remove the obstacles retarding the development of initiative, enterprise, and freedom of choice regarding the form of economic management employed.

Agricultural

Further on Ryzhkov Tour of Ryazan, Tula Oblast

PM2108132990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Aug 90 Second Edition p 3

[Report by TASS special correspondents S. Zharkov and A. Kakovkin: "Grain—The Main Topic"]

[Excerpts] Ryazan-Tula—The helicopter in which N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Ryazan Oblast in the morning of 18 August landed directly at the "Novaya Zhizn" Sovkhoz [State Farm] wheat field where powerful "Don-1500" combine harvesters were completing the threshing on the last strip. [passage omitted]

The questions asked of N.I. Ryzhkov by the journalists accompanying him were sharp and very much in line with the countryside's current problems, and he gave detailed answers. One of the questions specifically concerned the forecast about the countryside's transition to market relations.

"It seems to me," N.I. Ryzhkov said, "that the countryside has 'matured' for the market earlier than the city. Whereas in the past everything here used to be planned—what should be sown and when, when crops should be harvested—our peasants are now making their own decisions on all this. Of course, state orders and mandatory deliveries still exist and will remain, just like in any other state, but the countryside is nonetheless very swiftly adapting to the market. However, we have yet to make people aware of the essence of all the social compensations accompanying the market, and mainly that the countryside will actually gain from the planned reforms."

...It was just a year ago that the village where N.I. Ryzhkov's tour of Tula Oblast began that same day was not only classed as unpromising but was actually dying. Now it is the field for energetic activity by "Bolshevik" Sovkhoz which launched its revival. The sovkhoz is one the many farms comprising the "Novomoskovskoye" Agro-Industrial Association.

It is three years since the day when N.I. Ryzhkov signed a USSR Council of Ministers resolution on the formation of this new structure which pooled the entire rayon's economy. The head of the government and V.A. Starodubtsev, chairman of the USSR Peasants Union and the All-Russia Kolkhoz [Collective Farm] Council, have often recalled the story of its creation and development. Much has been done. Profits have increased by a factor of 2.5 to 3—this is the best indicator showing that the reorganization was not just another change of signs but was actually based on genuine economic interest. The entire production cycle is in operation here: Grain crops, corn, and feed crops are cultivated, and there is a breeding plant and processing industry. Even a supermarket has been built—the "crowning glory" of the long path traversed by produce from fields to store shelves. V.A. Starodubtsev boasted without any false modesty that the association supplies meat and milk to one-fourth of Tula Oblast.

Nowadays, in the era of glasnost and press freedom, nobody is any longer amazed by "sharp" questions being asked of the prime minister. This time, too, many journalists asked why the head of government preferred to visit only front-ranking farms, the "islands of prosperity" as it were.

N.I. Ryzhkov replied that it is necessary to keep an eye on positive experience, if only in order to have an idea of what to strive for. He furthermore pointed out that he also intends to visit the real laggards, the kolkhozes and sovkhozes which are "flat on their backs." As for ways to extricate them from the crisis, it is necessary to improve the forms and methods of economic management and to try out leasing, contracts, and family farms.

The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers did not spend the entire day in a helicopter just in order to listen to odes to victory. A most serious conversation about the most pressing problems was conducted everywhere, during each meeting with leaders, ordinary working people, and journalists, and primarily about the harvest. Will city dwellers be recruited for agricultural work? "Yes," was N.I. Ryzhkov's categorical opinion. The prime minister emphasized on three occasions that now it is immoral to pit city against countryside, consolidation is necessary.

Many people are now criticizing the government for "reverting" to the administrative edict system. "What should be done?"—N.I. Ryzhkov asked in reply in all fairness. Should the government sit back and wait while the harvest is rotting?

The government has now mobilized 46,000 military motor vehicles for harvesting work. The soldiers are showing great understanding for the important job. But there is no need to use taunts when writing about this, N.I. Ryzhkov said, addressing the journalists. This means disrespect for the crop farmers' labor as well as disrespect for the Army. This has never happened in our country before. This is not the way to exploit the topic of harvesting. This is a sacred cause. There are rostrums; go there and talk, persuade, and struggle, but do not touch that which it would be a sin to touch. Harvest and grain are not topics to be used as chips in political games.

Unfortunately, difficulties with food supplies have become an inseparable part of our life. This year, nature and the peasants' toil-hardened hands have given our society a unique chance. It must be utilized. The harvest must be saved.

Polozkov Visits Agrobalt Enterprise 21 Aug

LD2108214590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Ivan Kuzmich Polozkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, is in Leningrad at the invitation of the Leningrad Obkom [oblast party committee] of the CPSU. Today he visited the Agrobalt agro-industrial enterprise. Our correspondent Matvey Frolov reports:

[Frolov] That is an unusual farm. It is unique in its own way for many reasons. [passage omitted]

Comrade Polozkov talked with the agricultural workers of the joint enterprise, asked about the state of party work and answered questions. This is what Ivan Kuzmich Polozkov said.

[Begin Polozkov recording] My impressions are very good. You can see... yesterday, you and I looked at industrial production, and, today, an agricultural enterprise where people also are living with great prospects and are thinking of further development. As you can see, they have clear plans for at least the next five or seven years and we can see their concrete implementation.

At the same time, they are concerned. A great many problems are worrying them. Let us say, if we met at the enterprise, then their question was: What will become of the working class tomorrow, of technical, engineering and technical workers who are not confident today in the future? I see, first of all, the task of the party organizations, from primary party organizations to the CPSU Central Committee, is to reply as quickly as possible to the working class, the engineering and technical worker, especially to those enterprises being subjected to conversion, to reply to the questions which are worrying them.

As far as this agricultural enterprise is concerned, well, here I see two very major questions, or rather even answers to these questions. The first is if our industry were able to equip our agriculture with such equipment which you and I have seen, the food problem would be resolved in the immediate future. The second thing is that today we are speaking more of the individual farm [khutorskoye khozyaystvo]. But as you can see, the conditions of major agricultural production, in the conditions of the state farm, with the radical restructuring of intrafarm economic relations, splendid results may be achieved. But there is still no answer to this question today. Obviously, collective and state farms, individual farms and farmsteads [fermerskoye khozyaystvo] probably should compete so that our dispute over what means of production, what form of ownership has more right to affirm itself in our future, be settled by life itself. An answer must be sought to these questions here today. [end recording]

Rationale of Higher Produce Prices Questioned

PM2108125590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
12 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Article by V. Konovalov under the rubric "On Topics of the Day": "Purchase Prices Increased. Will There Be Any Food?"]

[Text] A report was published yesterday that as of 1 January next year the USSR Council of Ministers is raising purchase prices on a number of types of agricultural produce.

We are already getting accustomed to the language of the market economy, although for us it is still a prospect and not a reality. But let us still try to use this language to interpret the meaning of the adopted resolution.

So the state-purchaser will now pay the villager-producer more for purchases of sunflowers, sugar beets, cotton, flax products, tobacco, high-grade tea, basic kinds of livestock and poultry, milk and cream, and also in accordance with the resolution adopted somewhat earlier grain crops.

But the state buys food in order to sell it to you and me—the consumers. In this sense it is a go-between. And our first reaction is natural: Will the go-between's increased costs not entail an increase in food retail prices, and will this not hit the population's pocket?

V. Senchagov, chairman of the USSR State Prices Committee, declared at a news conference that there will be no automatic increase in food retail prices and that this question remains open since, as is known, the Union government's program to change the price structure did not receive support in parliament. Thus the state is consciously taking on major expenditure (more than 60 billion rubles) which is not yet being compensated for in any way. Why?

First, V. Senchagov explained, the increase in production which the increase in purchase prices is designed to stimulate will be a certain compensation. Second, approximate parity of prices for industrial and agricultural products is thereby restored, i.e. identical starting conditions are created for the upcoming transition to the market.

Seemingly good intentions. Agriculture really has long been given serious short measure in its mutual transactions with industry. The market could introduce common sense and genuine parity into these relations. Instead, it is again being suggested that the countryside merely prepare for the market by altering prices the way it seems fair today. But is it possible to keep up with rapidly changing reality in office transactions? For example, as of 1 January 1991, when the new purchase prices come into effect, suppliers of resources for agriculture will also raise the prices of their products. What then? By artificially adjusting the partners' starting conditions to each other in this way it is possible not to arrive at genuine parity even at the start of market relations, not to mention the finish—meeting the consumer's needs.

As regards the stimulating purpose of the new prices, there is a big question mark here too. For the purchaser with a monopoly, which is essentially what our state is, buying at a higher price still does not mean buying more. The example of the recent increase in grain purchase prices is confirmation of this. There have already been many cases where farms are in no hurry to increase sales of grain to the state at higher prices than before. First, the general price imbalance—which cannot be eliminated by directive without a market—makes people be concerned, above all about supplying themselves. And second, under our conditions financial saturation still does not mean material saturation. What will you buy with your present money, however much you may have? It turns out that it will be necessary to stimulate an increase in production and an improvement in the quality of industrial output. With what? Again, according to this logic, with prices and money. That is, it is necessary once again to upset parity, and so on without end—a vicious circle!

It is possible to break out of it only through the market. This is already universally recognized. And the reform is being prepared. Only the reform itself should not be supplanted by its preparation.

PRAVDA Reports Widespread Vegetable Shortages

904D0210A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Aug 90 Second Edition pp 1,2

[Roundup of reports from local PRAVDA correspondents by Ivan Totskiy, followed by commentary: "And This Is at the Peak of the Season"]

[Text] As usual, the phones in the editorial office continue to ring and the letters from readers express grief and confusion: Why are the shelves empty at the vegetable stores? Why have prices jumped up so high at the kolkhoz [collective farm] markets?

PRAVDA correspondents visited stores and markets of various cities. Here are their reports.

As Though in Different Countries

That is how the vegetable situation looks to Yuriy Shcherbinin in Astrakhan and Volgograd.

Astrakhan Oblast was named the country's vegetable garden not by journalists but by those who planned to harvest the largest vegetable crop here.

Moscow, Leningrad, and many other cities should receive 420,000 tons of vegetables from here this year. The residents of the capital have already bought up 25,000 tons of Astrakhan products—more than half of the volume of contracted deliveries.

The residents of Moscow inquired about surprisingly few tomatoes—46,000 tons. Is it that they do not like them? I called my acquaintances, and they all said that there are long lines for the Astrakhan tomatoes.

"We 'shot off' telegrams to both the Moscow Soviet and the Moscow Agroindustrial Committee: Come down here and take our harvest!" said V. Khrebetov, chairman of the Astrakhan Oblast Agro-Industrial Association. "But 20,000 tons of Bulgarian tomatoes have piled up in the capital's reserves. Why is that our problem?"

"I wish Moscow would return some of those crates to us," said V. Turchenkov, first deputy chairman of the Astrakhan Oblispolkom [oblast soviet executive committee]. "We sent off 2.5 million cases of goods, and the capital has only returned the first 300,000 pieces."

And how are the residents of Astrakhan themselves supplied with vegetables? The stores and the booths are practically full. But prices have risen in comparison with last year. Tomatoes are up to 40 kopeks, eggplants are 60, and plums, apples, and pears are 1 ruble [R] each. If you want to buy them cheaper, go to the plantations and gardens and pick them yourself. It may not be convenient, but it is cheaper.

...The distance between the two oblast centers is not so great, but I visited the vegetable stores in Volgograd, and it seemed as though I were in another country. There were lines everywhere, and the assortment and especially the quality were poor. Tomatoes were only 30 kopeks apiece, but I only found them in two stores out of 10 that I visited. The line was a minimum of an hour and a half.

This is how V. Batsunov, first deputy chairman of the soviet executive committee of the Volgograd City Soviet, explains it:

"This year the villagers reduced the land under vegetable crops by 6,000 hectares. The main reason was that previously the residents of the city helped the farms. Now the soviet executive committees do not require it of them. The amount of land producing cucumbers was reduced from 3,000 to 500 hectares. They returned contracts to us for tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants."

And it is no surprise. The enterprises of Volgograd demanded R40 per day for each helper this year! And wages also have to be paid. Even the most insistent moonlighter never got such rates before.

The Restless Tomato

This was the name our Kiev correspondent Ilya Tikhomirov gave to the vegetable.

The Rusanovskiy Sovkhoz [State Farm] has serious complaints against the collective of the Leninskaya Kuznitsa factory: It is violating the joint decree of the soviet executive committees of the Soviets of People's Deputies of Brovarskiy and Dneprovskiy Rayons (the enterprises are located on their territories) obligating them to help agricultural workers harvest vegetables.

The complaints, unfortunately, are typical. The growing of vegetables has long relied on the bosses of the factories. Previously Kiev sent up to 12,000 men to the vegetable plantations on peak days; now only a third or a quarter of that number are being sent. The condition of the vegetable stands is, of course, directly affected. Residents of Kiev have not seen cucumbers on sale directly from the field. The demand for tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, greens, and melons is not being filled. The stores and booths have no more than half of what they need. They mention the changeability of the weather among the reasons for it, but the shortage of labor is their chief complaint. They try to draw people to the plantations with the old command methods. Those methods still work, but not nearly as well as before. The new approaches are more effective.

Of course it takes time to introduce them. However we also have our "hard chargers." The Vatutinskiy Rayispolkom [Rayon Soviet Executive Committee] of Kiev put out the following leaflet:

"If you have free time and are looking for temporary work, come to the coordination center of the council of territorial self-management. It is carrying out an organizational assembly of people who wish to engage in temporary (shift) work to prepare fruit and vegetable products in the sovkhozes around Kiev. The length of the contract is for one month. The center guarantees lodging at the work site, three meals a day, and transportation to and from work."

Of course this is a more complicated business for such an organization than giving out commands. The coordination center had to ask the collectives of the enterprises to allot money and transportation. Once it received them, it took upon itself the responsibility of providing the sovkhozes with labor.

Talk Instead of Packages

This is how Arkadiy Pasechnik described the situation which has arisen in Moldova.

In Moldova it is the peak of the fruit and vegetable season. The shelves of the local stores, however, are not blessed with abundance. Instead, people run to the market for cabbage and onions. But even there you cannot buy cucumbers for pickling—the prices are too steep.

But if local trade is still getting by, the situation with deliveries of fruits and vegetables beyond the borders of the republic is much more strained. The Ministry of Agriculture explained to me that the industrial centers of the country have only been shipped about 100,000 tons of fruit and vegetable products—less by a factor of one and one-half than for the same period last year.

Commenting on this unfortunate statistic, the Ministry of Agriculture of Moldova did not rely exclusively on the excuse of a bad harvest. And, against my expectations, it did not insist on the usual complaints against the railways.

"We have a new problem now—there is no packaging," sigh the specialists. "Even though there are plenty of apples! Over six months we only received less than one-third of the 50 million crates we asked for. Our requests to Leningrad, Arkhangelsk, Karelia, and the Komi ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] are met with responses about a shortage of wood and about ecology. It is true that nature is in danger. But when the apples that we have not been able to send somewhere begin to rot, what is that called?.."

The USSR Gossnab [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply] has occupied a strange position in this complex "packaging" competition. Instead of efficiently interfering and imposing order, they decided, citing a bad harvest, to take a part of the republic's funds for packaging. Representatives of the ministry immediately flew to Moscow. Will they manage to defend themselves?..

Messengers are being flown not only to the center but to the village of Synzheru, near Kishinev, where a mighty cardboard factory, the hope of Moldavian gardeners, has only just come on line. This year the republic intended to receive 8.5 million square meters of cases of corrugated cardboard from it for packaging those same apples. It got 1.5 million square meters—and that was all. The factory came to a halt: There were no raw materials.

Our Commentary

When our telephone receiver becomes white-hot, we realize that people have become tired. They are tired of constant shortages. They are tired of "journeying" from one store to another and looking at empty shelves. One of the Muscovites who telephoned the editorial board declared, "Summer is coming to an end, and we still have not seen vegetables. When will they appear?"

Those same questions and that same alarm exists in the letters of the readers and in the reports of our correspondents. True, there is abundance at the kolkhoz markets. But the prices, the prices!.. When has it ever happened that in June, in the summer, a kilogram of tomatoes costs R5, of dill—R4 and 27 kopeks, of parsley—R3 97 kopeks, and of apples—R5 or 6?

These are the average prices around the country, according to the USSR Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics]. Local and regional prices may be higher or lower. The demand for vegetables is great, and there are few vegetables to be had. And where can they be found if at the end of July purchases are significantly lower by comparison with the corresponding period last year? Trade enterprises of the farms of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], the Ukraine, and Azerbaijan each fell short by 100,000 tons, and the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Moldova fell short by 50,000 tons.

But there are still many vegetables on the plantations. A number of measures recently adopted by the USSR Council of Ministers will help to accelerate the picking, save the harvest, and deliver it more quickly to the buyer. And if the local soviets attack the matter seriously and do not set up obstacles to those who wish to work on the plantations for pay or for a predetermined share of the produce, then the shelves of the vegetable stores will get fuller. The time has come to free ourselves from the bad habit of blaming one another for errors and to reap that which the farmers have grown with their labor.

Leasing Brings Success for Kemerovo Sovkhoz

PM2108155390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Report by N. Chirkov from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Here is another positive example. Workers on the Gornyak Sovkhoz [State Farm] in Kemerovo Oblast are achieving high profits. All the farm's subdivisions, and there are almost 40 of them, are successfully mastering new forms of labor organization and remuneration.

[Chirkov] Until recently the sovkhoz apiary was a loss-making enterprise. Why? After all, bees cannot be accused of laziness. They were gathering honey just as they are doing now. But they were neglected. The people who were supposed to look after them were very lazy. This is why the Pavlovs—Valeriy Vasilyevich and Lyubov Mikhaylovna—hessitated before leasing the apiary. Before they moved in, there were only just over 50 colonies. Now there are 120. It is not enough to say that leasing has done the trick. The main point is what kind of people are doing the leasing. Only two years have elapsed. The Pavlovs' contract runs for five years. The apiary has changed beyond recognition. Even during this year, which is unfavorable for beekeepers, they are hoping to produce 25 kg of honey per colony. They also keep hogs, chickens, and cows, and fatten bullocks. Someone has worked out that this family is feeding 40 city dwellers.

All the livestock and production units on Gornyak Sovkhoz are currently making a profit. Milk yields per cow, and there are 900 of them on the sovkhoz, are approaching 4,000 kg. Production of grain and feed crops has increased substantially. Just look at the corn that has been grown here. There will be enough for their own requirements, and some will be sold to less successful neighbors. Annual profits have topped 1 million rubles. And all this is because economic accountability rather than directives from above rule on the sovkhoz. Every leaseholder is now seeking to make his patch more profitable. Nor is the earned money gathering dust in the bank. A lot of housing is being built on the farm and money is being invested in new production units. It is planned, for instance, to build a dairy so as to be able to produce sour cream, butter, and cheese locally.

[Unidentified sovkhoz worker] What do people need now? Freedom and land. We have been given freedom, and, as for the land, we must learn to work on the land. Everyone should be given the opportunity to develop initiative. It should be possible for all types of management to coexist. People must learn to count money. If people start counting money, we will have an economy.

Orenburg Farm Concludes Truck Loan Contract

PM2108145590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Report by S. Radushina from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The first million tonnes of grain has been delivered to grain reception centers in Orenburg Oblast. The harvest is in full swing. It is hard work everywhere, but it proceeds more successfully wherever people have prepared well for it.

[Radushina] For the umpteenth year Leningrad drivers are helping out here. They are doing an excellent job, and this is quite understandable. They are paid well, and furthermore the Gagarin Sovkhoz [State Farm] looks after them. The food is good and free. Unfortunately, there are not enough trucks. Not all the trucks that were due to arrive have arrived in Orenburg Oblast. People are waiting for them impatiently but not inactively. The Agro-Industrial Association has managed to conclude a mutually advantageous contract with the Moscow City Soviet Executive Committee. In return for the loaned trucks the Muscovites will receive 50,000 tonnes of Orenburg wheat—above-plan wheat, it goes without saying. Incidentally, this is not the only contract that has been concluded. Combine operators from Tomsk and Krasnodar are helping out on local fields. The use of carts and storage bunkers is helping Orenburg grain growers to cope with their difficulties. They have been used to replace more than 40 trucks in transporting grain from the fields to the threshing floors. The harvest is gathering momentum in Orenburg Oblast; soon it will reach the virgin lands. Let's hope that by that time all the trucks that have been allocated by the country will have arrived on the boundless grain fields.

Military

Transcarpathian Oblast Radar Project Mothballed

PM2108151090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by N. Burbyga under the rubric "From Competent Sources": "Transcarpathian Radar Construction Halted"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has written on several occasions about the construction of a major radar near the village of Pestryalovo, Transcarpathian Oblast, and the population's protests about this. Here is another report. Construction of the radar has been halted by order of the USSR Council of Ministers and all the facility's installations are to be mothballed.

The USSR Defense Ministry is obliged to recultivate areas of woodland and pasture that have suffered as a result of the construction work. The work of mothballing the buildings and installations and recultivating the land will be paid for with funds allocated by the USSR Defense Ministry for the radar's construction.

At IZVESTIYA's request, Colonel V. Butenko, deputy chief engineer of an Air Defense Forces Directorate, commented on this report.

[Butenko] We are obliged to carry out the USSR Council of Ministers' orders. All work on the radar has now been suspended and the facility's installations are being mothballed.

[Burbyga] Valeriy Vladimirovich, in one way or another the money allocated for the construction of the radar has been poured down the drain. For what purpose will the building be converted?

[Butenko] I think that we need to discuss not so much the material losses as the detriment to the country's defense.

Although outmoded, the station is still performing its tasks. There is a breach in our early-warning system owing to the fact that the United States has taken the "Trident-2" system into its arsenal and put it on alert status.

In accordance with the orders of the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Ministry of the Radio Industry, the USSR Defense Ministry, and the USSR and Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Academies of Sciences, proposals will be drafted and submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers on ensuring a reliable early-warning system in this area with an eye to the ABM Treaty of 1972.

[Burbyga] How will the woodland and pastures be recultivated?

[Butenko] We have already embarked on this work. Quarries have been earmarked and soil is being taken into those areas that have been disturbed as a result of the construction work.

Far East Commander Views Hunger Strike Report

PM2108145190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent V. Klavdin under the rubric "Rumors and Facts": "Have Soldiers Declared a Hunger Strike?"]

[Text] According to a report by POSTFAKTUM, which was informed by a representative of the Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] Secretariat, on 12 August 28 Ukrainian draftees serving in Maritime Kray declared a hunger strike, demanding that they be dispatched to the territory of the Ukraine to continue the performance of their duty there.

Your correspondent telephoned Colonel General V. Novozhilov, commander of the Far East Military District.

"There has been no hunger strike as such," he reported. "An attempt to organize one was made. As reported to me, this occurred in a military construction detachment. During evening muster, as the USSR state anthem was being performed, a group of servicemen drafted in the Ukraine ostentatiously broke formation and left the unit. They were later returned to their subunit."

[Klavdin] What could have influenced their decision to declare a hunger strike?

[Novozhilov] Everything must be carefully looked into. But I think that the declarations on the sovereignty of the Ukraine and the performance of military service by Ukrainian citizens on the territory of the republic recently adopted by the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet were the basic cause. [Novozhilov ends]

But what do military lawyers think on this score?

"There are no grounds for instituting criminal proceedings against military servicemen who have attempted to go without food or have already declared a hunger strike," according to Colonel of Justice V. Bobrenev, deputy departmental chief of the Main Military Prosecutor's Office. "But if a hunger strike is declared, the commander must act according to regulations: The reasons which prompted people to take such an act must be thoroughly investigated and a report made to the command. In this case, I think the reasons are well known. The republics have not yet reached a clearly defined accord with the Union on the procedure for the performance of service and on the place of the Army in modern society. The decrees adopted by the republics are, however, being taken by some servicemen as the law in force. The results are what we have here. I consider explanatory work on such questions in the Army itself extremely important today."

Baltic Republics

21 Aug Lithuanian Council Session Carried

Landsbergis Gives Address

LD2108210490

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0909 GMT on 21 August, in the course of its live relay of the extraordinary Lithuanian Supreme Council session in the Council Hall in Vilnius, carries the 41-minute speech by Vytautas Landsbergis to the Council.

Landsbergis begins his statement by saying that Lithuania's domestic and foreign policy are not separate issues; they are closely linked. In relations with the Soviet Union and with Russia, primary attention is being paid to the coming negotiations and to Lithuania's attitude that parallel negotiations should take place with Russia and with the USSR because "the Russian Federation is becoming and will become a larger political and economic reality, whereas the Soviet Union is becoming and will become in some sense a not very clear matter." According to Landsbergis, the Baltic states no longer belong to the Soviet Union. Moldavia has recognized Lithuania and talks with Belorussia will take place soon.

Landsbergis quotes an article in the magazine NOVOYE VREMYA that describes the erroneous policy of the Soviet leadership toward Lithuania, which is based on illusions and incitements by people of non-Lithuanian nationality. He then describes as the best scenario, negotiations of three-plus-one, but if the partner in the Kremlin wishes they can bo one-plus-one. So far, the Kremlin has not given any reply to the proposal by the Baltic Council on this issue.

Speaking of relations with other foreign countries, Landsbergis states: "Many states immediately remembered their recognition of Lithuania on principles that were never abolished. The matter concerns only recognition of the government, or diplomatic recognition by establishing official contacts. Diplomatic recognition of the government is a process which is taking place. It is taking place very obviously for our benefit. This is happening in Washington and in the European capitals, including in official visits which, in the past, used to be at the parliamentary level. At present the contacts at government level and are becoming more frequent which means genuine factual recognition which, maybe, is not very far from final official recognition."

Landsbergis continues: "Some people both abroad and in our own country, say that this official recognition will be achieved only after we reach agreement with the Soviet Union." "But the situation has been changing in recent weeks because the Western countries have started to notice that it is not very clear what the Soviet Union is and what the prerogatives of its central government are. Hence we also see some changes for the better in the policy of these states concerning Lithuania, showing an inclination gradually to grant full recognition irrespective of how the Soviet Union will react to it."

Landsbergis then describes Lithuania's efforts to establish contacts with various organizations abroad and states that Western countries recognize that the elections to the Supreme Council in Lithuania were democratic and free. Therefore "various utterances coming either from the Kremlin or spread in Lithuania's countryside questioning the competence and authority of the Supreme Council pose dangers to the very foundations of our struggle for independence. All those who see and sometimes even take part in actions that seek to discredit the Supreme Council, who doubt whether it really expresses the will of the people of Lithuania, whether it is not necessary to verify this will once again, should think about it. Because it would gladden the Kremlin leadership for 11 March to be verified once again as they all the time wish to happen."

Landsbergis continues: "Apart from the blockades which still exist—which were introduced not two months ago but in 1940, 1944, and 1945—are the blockades of our foreign contacts and of our border." "This is a basic question of sovereignty. Direct and indirect discussions are taking place about this with President Gorbachev. The indirect discussion concerns the struggle for the world public opinion, and this struggle is to our benefit." "This problem should be one of the most important in the preliminary consultations about negotiations. In other words, there must be no denial of entry to Lithuania to people who are essential to us, advising us, or helping us in the negotiations. The negotiations between a prison inmate and the prison guard are not the type of negotiations desired by us."

Landsbergis then describes the coming action at the end of August organized by the Lithuanian Sajudis on the border between Poland and Lithuania stressing Lithuania's wish to belong to Europe. He continues: "One must speak in a very concrete and businesslike manner and reach decisions. Economic destabilization is taking place together with political destabilization. They are taking place as processes encouraging each other. We have already spoken here about it. This is no secret—greatly increased corruption, speculation, the undermining of the system of trade, and the helplessness of the internal bodies to combat it, the indignation of the people which is being directed not against the manufacturers of goods, not against those who sell the goods or against speculators, but for some reason against the legislative bodies, are taking place." "We have heard that it is not the Kremlin policy and its inhuman decisions but our Supreme Council which is to blame for the blockade. Now we can hear that the Supreme Council or its leadership are to blame for the shortage of goods. We may leave this to the understanding and conscience of the people spreading such opinions, but we must examine the situation itself."

"The question of control of the borders is on the agenda. These borders, which are being guarded so carefully that some politician friendly to us cannot arrive here, are completely open to the transfer of the greatest wealth from Lithuania and to unlimited profiteering. I am speaking about the borders to the West. And we must start taking care, as is already being done in Latvia and Estonia, to defend our borders. Economic control is also essential there."

"We know that at one time a foreign military force in Lithuania opposed the first attempts to introduce a minimum control over the goods and other wealth taken from Lithuania. We must do this now, definitely, not waiting for the beginning of the negotiations and not waiting even for the beginning of our second session." "Maybe we will think about at least a partial, voluntary implementation of the law on the country's defense service this autumn. This would be a test of whether there are men in Lithuania who believe in and wish for independence and can come and help their country.

"The plundering of goods from the stores and shops, their removal from Lithuania, the bringing of sacks of rubles to buy goods which will be taken from Lithuania is a situation where one cannot only appeal to the people. We must speak frankly and bring people to court and demonstrate to the people that we are an effective government. If the executive power needs help, I think, the Supreme Council will grant authorization. We may return to the situation when it was essential to gather all the strength both of the government and of the Supreme Council for the struggle against the blockade."

"We must not forget that we are in a state of siege, in danger, at the eve of an important struggle. We must be united, enjoying the understanding and support of the people. Those who wish to win the negotiations for themselves will exert efforts so that there is no unity nor support of the people. We must also speak about our internal political life, about what is happening in our society, about any antistate action financed by another state, financed without limit, which is being tolerated here. And, of course, we must speak about our natural internal opposition and how to make use of the existence of the opposition if it helps us find better solutions. Many laws which have been debated and adopted have demonstrated that this opposition is useful. We must discuss how to prevent the danger of these internal opposition undermining our positions."

Brazauskas on USSR Talks

LD2108213290

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1202 GMT on 21 August in its live relay from an extraordinary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council held in Vilnius carries a 22-minute speech by Algirdas Brazauskas, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Brazauskas begins his address by stressing the necessity of stepping up the negotiations with the Soviet Union. He says, "There are aspects and arguments of an economic nature." He notes "The first problem is the end of the current economic year. When the blockade was lifted in Lithuania, the Union government made a decision to supply material wealth to Lithuania according to the program of the third quarter of this year." He later notes, "I have to report to the Supreme Council that there is no government decision on the supplies to Lithuania in the fourth quarter. According to our unofficial information, a decision of the Lithuanian parliament on the beginning of the negotiations is awaited. We may find ourselves in a very complex situation in the fourth quarter, as we were during the blockade. You all are well aware of the fact that the fourth quarter is the beginning of the winter. Therefore, this argument is one of the most weighty and we must speak clearly with the Union's leadership about the fourth quarter."

Brazauskas says: "In the whole Soviet Union, and this later reflects in Lithuania, there exists an economic crash. When the economic system is disintegrating, it would be a great pity if it would exert to some extent pressure on our republic's economic system. This is happening today. Why? Because we cannot separate ourselves from the Soviet Union and from all these negative economic consequences existing in the Soviet Union. Therefore, I think one of the basic problems in the negotiations is the separation of the borders of the Republic of Lithuania. Perhaps at the beginning it should be economic separation." Brazauskas continues, "We must have our own customs services, our own system of customs payments, so that we can clearly regulate the movement and circulation of material wealth beyond the borders of the republic and into the republic." He says he is thinking of both Eastern and Western borders. "I think the delegation which will be appointed today should raise the separation of the borders of Lithuania as one of the major problems," Brazauskas says.

He continues, "I completely agree with the statement by chairman Landsbergis that there is demoralization in our trade. Of course, there is. When there is a shortage of some goods in the Soviet Union, when these goods in large quantities reach today Yugoslavia, when our people take these goods there and sell them, goods which are vitally essential to our people; this is disorder. [passage indistinct] We must have our customs, our system and only then we will be able effectively to exert control.

"The next problem is the functioning and work of the economy under the Union subordination in Lithuania. About 40 percent of industrial production comes from these enterprises. They employ almost 50 percent of all industrial workers," Brazauskas says. He continues "To this industry the railway transport, aviation transport, and sea transport should be added. There the influence of our government is so far obviously insufficient. I wish to announce that a Lithuanian association of free enterpreneurs has been established in Lithuania. I have read this material in the original language. This is a list of organizations belonging to that association."

Brazauskas continues by saying: "They have a board consisting of 25 people and so on. These are new organizational structures that do not belong to our joint context of economic administration, with their own regulations, their aims, and their other matters. I think we cannot observe such matters calmly. We should react correspondingly. I would like to add that there are directives of individual Union ministries how to take away the existing wealth from Lithuania." Brazauskas adds, "This is very difficult to control until we do not have control over our borders."

Brazauskas points out that the centralized import to Lithuanian amounted to 1.177 billion rubles. He notes that half of this consists of import goods for the Ministry of Trade; the other half consists of raw materials for various industries. Brazauskas says: "Next year we will not receive centrally imported goods. We must decide to tighten our belts; we will have to do this." He then remarks that there is a simple question "we" cannot solve, one we are looking to solve: 150,000 tonnes of sugar, 110 million currency rubles. We have no answer to this question, Brazauskas notes. He says, "We will not manage without credits."

Brazauskas concludes his address to the council as the first secretary of the Central Committee of the independent Lithuanian Communist Party, assuring the council, in view of the attacks by some quarters of the Communist Party, that it is supporting Lithuania's independence and has nothing to do with the Lithuanian Communist Party that supports the CPSU.

Trade Questions Debated

LD2108191190

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuania at 1415 GMT on 21 August resumes its live relay from an extraordinary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council being held in Vilnius' Supreme Council Hall.

Deputy Motieka is in the chair.

At 1422 GMT, questions concerning trade are put to Minister Sinevicius. Details are mostly indistinct.

At 1432 GMT, questions concerning various aspects of profiteering in the sale of goods are raised.

At 1445 GMT, a deputy criticizes the stance of the independent Lithuanian Communist Party and some statements by the press.

At 1550 GMT, discussion of trade questions continues.

At 1510 GMT, a deputy discusses the role played by the opposition. He notes parliamentary authority is being undermined in a deliberate manner. He cites various examples of such opposition activity. He points out that such opposition could bring about dictatorship. He appeals to opposition members within parliament to adopt a more positive attitude.

At 1555 GMT, Deputy Prime Minister Ozolas talks about the approaching negotiations. He discusses the economic tasks, including privatization. He proposes deliberation on the development of an antimonopoly policy. He urges deputies to conclude their vacation and to get back to work.

At 1525 GMT, Deputy Panguonis stresses the need to examine the effectiveness of existing laws. He notes they are not that effective and suggests fewer laws with greater enforcement. He singles out laws governing commercial speculation as ineffective. Strict enforcement should be insisted upon. He points out that deputies should act within the boundaries of respectability.

At 1530 GMT, several deputies relinquish their speaking time to have a declaration by a group of deputies signed by several named deputies concerning the deputy chairman's speech in Switzerland. They want a copy of Deputy Montieka's speech in Switzerland.

At 1535 GMT, a deputy notes the need to discuss negotiations. He notes that the situation is not going to improve and is currently as good as can be expected for entering negotiations.

He addressed the question of dealing with the accusations by the press against deputies. He notes parliament itself should assess the merits and faults of work accomplished by Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers, without waiting for the press to do this.

At 1540 GMT, Deputy Zingeris introduces Professor Sennas.

At 1544 GMT, Landsbergis is asked about the continuation of tonight's session. He notes it should be decided whether they need to talk further or to start on the agenda.

At 1546 GMT, the Supreme Council draft resolution is read.

Russian Talks Delegates Named

LD2108204590 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1546 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Draft resolution on the composition of the Lithuanian delegation to negotiations with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, read by unidentified deputy at the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius—live]

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania has resolved:

1. To approve as members of the Lithuanian Republic's delegation—state delegation for interstate negotiations with the Soviet Union and [passage indistinct] Abisalas, [name indistinct], Landsbergis, Ozolas, Prunskiene, Saudargas, Stankevicius, [name indistinct].

2. According to the Lithuanian Republic's temporary fundamental laws, Paragraphs 86 and 87, [passage indistinct] the delegation is to be headed by the chairman of the Supreme Council.

3. Representatives of the Estonian and Latvian Republics will be invited as individuals with delegation observer rights. The possibility is left open to invite necessary individuals to join the delegation; these will include members of the Lithuanian emigre community.

4. The delegation is empowered to sign protocols concerning the start and conditions of negotiations, and also to conduct interstate negotiations with the delegation from the Soviet Union, while maintaining the principal negotiation regulations and goals approved by the Supreme Council on 7 August 1990.

Such is the draft resolution.

More Reported on Delegates

LD2108215890

[Editorial Report] Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian at 2100 GMT on 21 August carries a brief report on the draft resolution adopted by the Lithuanian Supreme Council on 21 August on the team to negotiate with the Soviet Union and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR.

The proposed membership of the negotiating team is read out as follows: Aleksandras Abisala, Pranas Kuris Vytautas Landsbergis, Romualdas Ozolas, Kazimiera Prunskiene, Algirdas Saudargas, Ceslovas Stankevicius, and Emanuelis Zingeris.

Makeup of Delegation Viewed

LD2108200790

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1555 GMT continues its live relay from an extraordinary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council being held in Vilnius' Supreme Council Hall.

Deputy Paleckis asks for a breakdown of deputies suggested by Landsbergis and those proposed by Prunskiene. A discussion of the delegation make-up follows.

At 1600 GMT, a 15-minute recess is proposed.

A short announcement follows calling members of delegation for negotiations with the RSFSR to assemble.

At 1620 GMT, the session resumes. Landsbergis takes the floor. He notes he left a list of deputies proposed by him for delegation membership, prior to his departure for Switzerland in the event the need to form a delegation immediately arose in his absence. He notes this constitutes his explanation for the existence of such a list.

Landsbergis discusses the formation of the delegation. He goes over the subjects discussed earlier and asks whether more discussion and questions are envisaged prior to voting on the delegation.

At 1635 GMT, discussion of the order of voting on the delegation continues, with Landsbergis participating. A question is asked whether several other names may be added to the list of delegation membership. Discussion ensues.

AT 1645 GMT, a deputy notes that economists are missing from the delegation, with the exception of Kazimiera Prunskiene.

At 1705 GMT, a proposal is made to vote for the inclusion of Vytautas Landsbergis in the delegation. Note is taken of Prime Minister Prunskiene's absence from Lithuania and the question is raised of Deputy Ozolas' right to represent her. A deputy notes that Prunskiene appointed Ozolas to represent her during her absence.

At 1710 GMT, Deputy Vaisvila joins in the discussion, proposing that the session be postponed until tomorrow to decide such questions.

At 1715 GMT, Landsbergis expresses his regret at not having an official declaration by Kazimiera Prunskiene, noting that if Deputy Ozolas is not trusted, a decision should be postponed until tomorrow or even until the prime minister's return, so that she can indicate whether or not she wishes to participate in the negotiating delegation.

At 1725 GMT, a vote is taken in favor of deciding this evening. Approval of supreme council-proposed delegation. Discussion on the wording of the decision follows.

At 1735 GMT, a question is raised of emigre Lithuanians' impact on the decision. Landsbergis notes that individuals born in Lithuania, or those whose parents were born in Lithuania have a right to Lithuanian citizenship. Discussion follows.

Deputy Jasukaityte raises the question of the prime minister's inclusion in delegation.

Participation by emigres is questioned once again. It is suggested that such individuals may not be granted visas by the USSR Foreign Ministry.

At 1745 GMT, Deputy Vilkas says that the sentence on the possible expansion of delegation should not be deleted under any circumstances. He suggests the vote should define the starting delegation, with possible expansion of the delegation later.

The relay ends at 1755 GMT with the announcement that the Supreme Council session will resume at 0700 GMT on 22 August.

22 Aug Lithuanian Council Session Carried

Law Enforcement Stressed

LD2208093190

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0700 GMT on 22 August begins a live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session being held in the Supreme Council Hall in Vilnius.

The presenter notes the session will start late since the presession presidium meeting is still in session.

At 0705 GMT, the session opens. Internal Affairs Minister Misiukonis is given the floor. He expresses regret over the question asked by Deputy Liaucius concerning the earlier discussed shooting at kindergarten windows and when a soldier was hit. He notes a document has been prepared by the Lithuanian Procuracy and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which has been sent to all republic cities, ordering strict republic law enforcement.

Discussion ensues on circumstances and the investigation's findings of the shooting incident.

At 0715 GMT, Deputy Juknevicius joins the discussion on laws and statutes and raises questions of whether such incidents involve juridical or political competence.

Minister Misiukonis explains the situation, whereby soldiers often commit actions which constitute criminal offenses.

Deputy Prapiestis notes USSR laws are not in force in the Lithuanian Republic. Discussion continues on who should deal with such offenses, the militia or the procuracy.

At 0725 GMT, Misiukonis explains the difficulties involved in dealing with offenses by the military.

The findings of the militia investigation are then reviewed.

Landsbergis joins the discussion and expresses his dissatisfaction over the fact that a criminal investigation has not been launched following a Soviet soldier's shooting a Lithuanian citizen in broad daylight near a kindergarten. He counters a claim that Soviet soldiers act according to their laws by stating they are acting against Lithuanian laws.

Other similar incidents are discussed. He questions the internal affairs minister on past action in such cases.

At 0735 GMT, a deputy asks how the government plans to deal with similar incidents. Minister Misiukonis explains the problems ensuing with military unit territory.

At 0740 GMT, Deputy Antanavicius asks about a directive which precludes Lithuanians from going abroad more than once a year. Misiukonis cites some anti-speculation measures that sometimes apply.

Deputy Liaucius notes the Kaunas Militia, Procurator Paulauskas, and others did not act in a timely fashion. He cites several examples of the local militia refusing to turn over army recuits, noting the large city militia could learn from them.

Details are furnished of correspondence exchanges between the military procuracy, the Kaunas Militia, and the Procuracy.

At 0750 GMT, Vaisvila notes the field guard detail regulations must not be in force in city centers. He cites several laws and criminal code paragraphs, which govern military procuracy and city procuracy functions.

At 0755 GMT, Deputy Liaucius proposes that government officials should play a more active role in such cases, suggesting this should be included in negotiation materials.

At 0805 GMT, discussion continues. A deputy reads examples from a series of documents exchanged between the militia, the procuracy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the military commissariats and procuracy, on rounding up military service recruits. He raises the question of Ministry of Internal Affairs funding. He urges more active investigation of criminal incidents involving the military.

At 0815 GMT, a deputy notes the militia is the only resource for protecting the population and as such needs to be more trustworthy and less indifferent.

Deputy Vaitiekunas expresses the hope that the incident will be properly investigated and the findings properly revealed to eliminate coverups. Deputy Vaisvila notes that a resolution could be adopted today on Deputy Liaucius' proposal.

At 0825 GMT, Landsbergis notes Miniauskas' murder needs to be considered as a murder investigation case. He notes relations with the military question needs to be dealt with separately. He cites Prunskiene's absence and a lack of the question's background study, and proposes a postponement of the question until early September.

He then proposes that a text be proposed for the resolution on Miniauskas' murder.

Only 79 deputies are said to be in attendance; the rest are invited to report to the hall at 0900 GMT.

A deputy notes each case of military aggression is reported and protested to the highest USSR authorities. A government note will be prepared on the murders.

At 0833 GMT the session adjourns until 0900 GMT.

Soviet Military Roundup Debated

LD2208111390

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0900 GMT resumes its live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session being held in the Supreme Council Hall in Vilnius.

The session is chaired by Deputy Ceslovas Stankevicius, who is assisted by Deputy Kazimieras Motieka.

At 0910 GMT, the session called to order. Chairman Stankevicius proposes Deputies Vaisvilas' and Liaucius' report materials be forwarded for government deliberation and also for the information of the Internal Affairs Ministry Commission. A second resolution is proposed to have the State Defense and Internal Affairs Commissions present their report to the next session. The subject is of Lithuanian Ministry of Internal Affairs workers having cooperated with the Soviet military in rounding up recruits. The proposal is that the Lithuanian Procuracy investigate these incidents to determine whether Lithuanian laws were violated by Lithuanian militiamen.

At 0920 GMT, debate begins on proposal wording. Debate on this question ends and will be further discussed at a seperate session.

It is announced that a quorum has not been reached.

A number of deputies who did not have an opportunity to speak yesterday will be given the opportunity to speak today.

At 0925 GMT, Deputy Vaitiekunas is opposed to listening to speakers, since, in the absence of a quorum, no resolutions can be adopted. He proposes the preparation of a new registration document by deputies in attendance.

At 0930 GMT, the floor is opened to discussion.

Deputy Gentvilas takes the floor. He proposes informing the public of stands taken by the Supreme Council and Council of Ministers in order to refute various assertions being made in the press. He also addressed the speculation issue, noting municipal authority should be strengthened.

At 0940 GMT, Deputy Grakauskas discussed economic and agrarian reform questions and strategies. He cites examples of anti-government agitation in the rural areas, quoting articles from the press.

At 0950 GMT a deputy cites a lack of harmony as well as other negative factors in existence. He recalls parliament's mandate given by voters. He notes neglect in the economic area and discusses economic reform questions.

At 1010 GMT, Deputy Varanauskas deplores the lack of optimism and specific proposals. He notes that people are prepared to suffer for independence, but they are impatient with disorder in trade and economy. He gives specific examples of abuses in manufacturing and resultant shortages. He lists some suggestions to counter some of these shortcomings.

At 1015 GMT, debates continue. A deputy calls attention to the plight of former political prisoners and deportees who lack living quarters and other basic necessities. He questions some of the remarks made by Brazauskas yesterday. He also criticizes remarks made by Deputies Jursenas and Rupeika. He also criticizes the appeal by the intelligentsia to the Lithuanian public.

At 1025 GMT, Chairman Stankevicius proposes foregoing a recess to give everyone who asked to speak an opportunity to express themselves and to conclude the session.

Landsbergis asks about the implementation of the agenda. He mentions discussion of protocol resolutions. He notes the Supreme Council could authorize the presidium to discuss such questions.

At 1030 GMT, Deputy Premier Ozolas cites the need for some type of specific authorization.

At 1035 GMT, Deputy Abisala points out 20 additional deputies are attending other meetings and could be present to make a quorum, if they had a definite schedule of when voting would take place.

A deputy notes milk collection bases are not accepting milk supplied by farmers.

At 1040 GMT, the chairman cites proposals by Landsbergis and Ozolas on protocol resolutions. A 50-minute lunch recess is proposed with postponement of vote, to 1200 or 1130 GMT.

At 1045 GMT the session is adjourned to 1145 GMT.

Politburo's Shenin Meets Lithuanian Communists

LD2108204390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Report by S. Chekalin from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Shenin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Burokevicius, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, met the Communists of Klaipeda. [Begin video recording] [Chekalin] The Lithuanian Communists on the CPSU platform have to work in difficult conditions these days. Under the guise of depoliticization, they are being dismissed from their jobs. They are deprived of their mass media, and 11 rayon and city committees of the republic do not have their own buildings. Klaipeda is no exception, but the surprising thing is that under these most difficult conditions, people, and not only communists, as never before, have rallied around the city committee in which, incidentally, only two secretaries have been released. The flow of applications to join the party is growing. Today, many of these were ceremoniously handed their party cards, including the whole family, consisting of four people, of zoo technician Berulde Demencek. [video shows audience clapping as individuals ascent a platform]

[Shenin] You know, I am simply convinced that the CPSU is capable of a great deal. And in such difficult and hard working conditions, the city committee of the party has neither accommodation nor transportation, and at the same time, today, Sunday, the hall is full, the aktiv came, and people are being received into the party, and this, I think says that here, the people are very seriously intent on working, and it seems to me (Braunkauskus), the first secretary of the party city committee, has adopted a very correct [pauses]... the correct line here, and his aktiv is supporting him in a very intelligent way.

[Chekalin] And the second question is about the results of the trip. You are leaving Lithuania today?

[Shenin] Well, you know, I can say that this is nevertheless a difficult situation, a difficult political and economic situation. And the legal situation is also pretty difficult, I would say, because laws are being adopted which of course in no way accord with the laws of the Union of the Constitution of the Union, and this affects people...

[Chekalin, interrupting] ...with human rights.

[Shenin] Well, unfortunately it is, so to speak, most frequent with human rights in fact. Many many problems are arising for people, and of course there is a kind of lack of certainty about tomorrow. What there will be and how things will be. And I think that the leadership of Russia is, to speak plainly, no playing a very comely role in this now, so to speak, because the arrivals here of the Russian leaders, well, the trips of yesterday and today are perceived simply as a kind of irritant, because if they have arrived, then at least it is necessary to consult people, and the more so since as soon as any kind of decisions are made, as soon as some kind of documents are signed, then it has to be explained to people what these documents are. [end recording]

Sajudis Activist on 'European Road' March

LD2108155390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0832 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Report by TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 21 Aug (TASS)—Algimantas Cekuolis, one of the activists of the "Sajudis" national movement and a USSR people's deputy, has addressed an appeal to the inhabitants of Lithuania to take an active part in the "European Road" action timed to coincide with the 51st anniversary of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. Speaking late last night on Lithuanian Television, he invited all who so desire to travel to Lazdijai (Lithuania's border with Poland) to "open a gateway to Europe."

The action, according to the "Sajudis" leaders, aims to "draw the attention of the world public to the need for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to take part in the all-European summit to be held in Paris this autumn, collecting signatures to an appeal, 'The Baltic Question—For a Conference in Paris,' and demanding that the frontier between the Baltic and Europe be opened up."

"We shall cross the frontier in Lazdijai," said Cekuolis. He called upon the inhabitants of Lithuania not to use passes printed by border troops "unless they are handed out by Lithuanian policemen and written in the state language of Lithuania." At the same time, Cekuolis warned that the action "will not be a safe one."

The "Sajudis" representative called upon the population of Lithuania to be organized. "There is no need to smash anything. Let's not turn the setting of the struggle for our freedom into a marketplace," he said.

"The march will take place whatever the weather and however many divisions are sent in," Cekuolis noted in conclusion.

As has already been reported, the command of the Baltic Border District has officially warned Kazimiera Pruinskiene, the prime minister of Lithuania, that in the event of attempts to violate the frontier, border troops will act in complete accordance with the existing laws of the USSR.

Lithuanians Polled on Leaders, Worries

90UN2625C Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 1 Aug 90 p 2

[Article by the informational service of the Lithuanian government and ELTA: "The Residents of the Republic on the Government and Themselves"]

[Text] With the goal of formulating a more efficient policy for affirming Lithuanian statehood and democracy and making its actions and rulings more responsive to the opinions and desires of the people, the government has charged its informational service with ordering a public opinion poll. The poll was carried out on 11-19 June by the sociology laboratory of the University of Vilnius. The political tendencies of various sectors of society and the residents' attitude toward the authorities and to individual policies were polled, revealing which problems trouble people most of all today.

The poll was conducted according to the international method of the U.S. Gallop Institute for the Study of Public Opinion, and residents of all regions of Lithuania, all social sectors, and various nationalities were polled using interviews.

1. The poll shows that people have a more favorable opinion of events that have already happened than of events which are still happening, the results of which are still unclear:

—The Act of 11 March is approved by nine out of ten residents of Lithuania and by half of the Russians and Poles who were polled;

—Eight out of 10 would vote for an independent Lithuania as opposed to one-third of Russians and Poles;

—Eighty percent of the residents are in favor of the need for a moratorium;

—The majority of residents consider the search for effective ways of consolidating independence and economic reform the most important of state affairs.

2. People evaluate the actions of the government as follows: good—42 percent, fair—49 percent, and poor—eight percent. The actions of the parliament are evaluated as follows: good—23 percent, fair—59 percent, and poor—18 percent.

According to public opinion, one of the chief problems of current political life is the lack of political sophistication. People long for agreement between the parliament and the government and between individual persons inside these institutes. They also wish for the implementation of promises made before the elections.

3. The list of the most popular political figures is headed by K. Prunskiene (average rating—55 percent). Following her are A. Brazauskas (47 percent), V. Landsbergis, (30 percent), E. Vilkas (29 percent), K. Antanavicius (21 percent), and R. Ozolas and K. Motieka (19 percent each). K. Prunskiene's name was filled in first on the list by representatives of all the major ethnic groups in Lithuania. This demonstrates the opportunity for the prime minister to rally and unite the various sectors of society at the present time to resolve the most important problems. Evaluations of the political figures also show that the majority of people are in favor of a centrist position in politics.

4. The most urgent issues on the daily level are: Supplies of goods, the standard of living, and problems with housing. They have become still more aggravated after the economic blockade. Among the demands on the authorities that were written in, there was a new one: To provide social guarantees (21 of those polled were in favor of this). The poll shows that the general problems of Lithuania and questions of personal life often coincide.

* * *

The government, considering the foundation of its activities to be the consolidation of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania and the creation of a democratic, socially reliable state with a flourishing economy, will henceforth try as much as possible to take into account opinions expressed in various forms and the aims of people and to unite the interests of groups of the population.

Lithuania's Defense Service Law Viewed

90UN2583C Vilnius LETUVOS RITAS in Russian 23-28 Jul 90 p 2

[Interview with A. Vaitkaitis, deputy general director of the Department of Regional Defense under the Republic of Lithuania Government, by V. Gayvyanis; place and date not given: "A Mars Without Weapons. But Mars Nonetheless..."]

[Text] **"Prisoners"? Service lasts 12 months. They take women, too. A pension from the USSR Ministry of Defense for servicemen of the Department for Regional Defense?**

The Supreme Council of Lithuania has adopted a provisional law on service in defense of the region. V. Gayvyanis met with Algimantas Vaitkaitis, deputy general director of the Department of Regional Defense under the Republic of Lithuania government and a colonel in the Soviet Army.

[Gayvyanis] Does Lithuania really need such a hasty action—an army and this law?

[Vaitkaitis] We need the law. We need it primarily for a peaceful border. After we introduce our own currency, we can expect contraband and the import of illegal drugs. We need to put up obstacles to all these negative phenomena. And then there are considerations of an economic nature. Even today Lithuania is full of shady characters trying to bring out various types of information and our products. There may be still more of them. And it is very important to guard jails and penal colonies. The internal forces of the USSR may be withdrawn at any time. We must prepare ourselves for this now. It is a pity that this law took so long to draw up. It was needed long ago.

[Gayvyanis] Do you believe that it would be possible to avoid disagreement with the republic's military commissariats and still return those 3,000 people who have left to serve in the Soviet Army?

[Vaitkaitis] Yes, we have a legal defense for them. A young man renounces Union citizenship and accepts Lithuanian citizenship. He is obligated to serve in the regional defense and he takes the corresponding oath. Then if he is taken into the army of another country, we could interpret that as being captured.

[Gayvyanis] I heard that the law adopted by the parliament does not fully justify your expectations.

[Vaitkaitis] The law stipulates a short duration of service. The parliament decided on 12 months. We would have preferred 16. Imagine service on the border to yourself. It takes a whole six months to train a person. And that leaves only six months for active service. And then we start all over again with others. There are few officers and good specialists. To train them we need time, and we need to reform the military departments in the institutions of higher education. I believe that the length of service should be lengthened if only for the transitional period. In accordance with the law that was adopted, we will need approximately 1.5 times more servicemen than if the service was for two years. And then there is the question of wages. Even a warrant officer will not agree to work for less than 300 rubles [R].

[Gayvyanis] What will this whole program cost Lithuania?

[Vaitkaitis] We are trying to calculate that now. We must not offend the officers. Service at the border is not the same thing as sitting at home. We know that maintenance of one division costs the Soviet Union R16-18 million annually. Apparently it will not be any cheaper for us either. All the more because we do not even have weapons. Expenses for military needs may rise considerably, especially in the first year.

[Gayvyanis] The law went into effect the day it was adopted, that is to say 17 July. Does that mean there will be a call-up into the Army this fall?

[Vaitkaitis] We will begin working in October. I remind you that young people from 19 to 27 years of age are obligated to serve. If some 18 year olds wish to serve, we will take them as well.

[Gayvyanis] And what about women?

[Vaitkaitis] We are very much in need of female medical students, radio operators, telephone operators, and typists. To work with the staffs, for instance. This is not service. But they can help, especially if there are not many boys.

[Gayvyanis] What will happen to those whose health is not up to standard?

[Vaitkaitis] We are preparing a special provision. The Soviet laws are incomplete. At first, when we were preparing our own document, we thought that we would take a very strict position on the question of health. Now that the term of service has been reduced it seems that we will have to take boys with some illnesses. Otherwise we will not have enough people for guarding the borders and internal service. What will we say to the critics? The boys are not just serving anywhere, but almost at home. They are accustomed to the climatic conditions, and they will be able to see their families on Saturdays and Sundays. In this manner we will increase the number of people.

[Gayvyanis] In the meantime, the status of the Soviet Army on the territory of Lithuania is unclear. Perhaps we should wait on the negotiations.

[Vaitkaitis] We do not count on them being easy. There will be many disputes concerning the Army. We are already preparing an agreement. The law on service in defense of the region will ensure that no one in Moscow may say that we are unable to control our borders or defend ourselves. The defensive interests of the USSR in the Baltic region must be taken into account, but we may also hope that the Soviet Armed Forces will soon be withdrawn.

[Gayvyanis] There will be privates and there will also be generals. How many employees are there right now in the Department of Regional Defense?

[Vaitkaitis] About 50. But we plan an expansion if the Supreme Council approves it. We ourselves have just recently recommended how and what should be done.

[Gayvyanis] Do you have a military rank?

[Vaitkaitis] Yes. I am a colonel of the medical service. I graduated from the military medical academy and served in various units. Most recently I worked in the military department of the Kaunas Medical Academy. I began working there as a rank-and-file teacher and became head of a military department. I defended a dissertation on the traumas of assault troops.

[Gayvyanis] And the other officials of the department?

[Vaitkaitis] With the exception of A. Butkevicius, the general director, all the heads of departments and their deputies are former servicemen. Many of them have finished academies and have experience. Last year they were the ones who concerned themselves with our youths that left the USSR Army and who drove around to the units. These people might well be considered to have suffered. The USSR Ministry of Defense has removed the ranks from our officers and is threatening not to pay their pensions.

Latvian Officials Hold Talks With Moscow 21 Aug

Positions Established

LD2108174290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] A consultative meeting took place in Moscow today between representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet and USSR Government, and representatives of Latvia. Meeting at a roundtable, the sides set out their views on a broad circle of problems connected with the basic principles of mutual relations between the USSR and Latvia.

During the meeting Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the country's Supreme Soviet; Revenko, member of the Presidential Council of the USSR and peoples deputy; Tarazevich, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities commission on nationalities' policy and relations between nationalities; and Doguzhiyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, stressed the necessity for Latvia to fulfill all the provisions of the 14 May presidential decree. They reported on the basic principles of the preparation of the new Union treaty. Attention was focused on the strict observation of people's rights and liberties during the transformations taking place in the republic. Regret was expressed at anti-Union manifestations in Latvia.

Both sides came out in favor of continuing the consultations.

News Conference Held

LD2108200990 Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Lev Aksenov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—A consultative meeting of representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government with Latvian representatives was held in the Kremlin today. "The sides set out their views on a broad range of problems associated with the basic principles of relations between the Soviet Union and Latvia," an official report says.

It is also reported that during the conversation representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government "emphasized particularly the need to fulfill in Latvia all the provisions of the presidential decree of the USSR of May 14 (on the declaration of the Latvian Supreme Soviet regarding the restoration of independence of the Latvian Republic). They summed up the basic principles of the drafting of a new Union treaty. The emphasis was placed on strict observance of human rights and freedoms during the transformations under way in the republic and in education of peoples in the spirit of respect and benevolent attitude to each other. Separate anti-Union manifestation in Latvia were deplored."

A news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists was given on the same day in Latvia's permanent mission at the USSR Council of Ministers. Head of the Latvian delegation, vice president of the Latvian Supreme Soviet Andrejs Krastins said that the Latvian parliament, in its decree of July 10, proposed to the Soviet Union to start bilateral talks on the generally recognised principles of international law.

During the consultations the Soviet side also "expressed the readiness to begin talks without any preliminary conditions and restrictions."

The main disputed questions were also discussed. The sides agreed that within approximately ten days the Soviet Union will prepare a written answer to Latvia's proposal of interstate negotiations, while the Latvian delegation will prepare a draft treaty with the USSR. Krastsins emphasized that the negotiations will be held on the basis of equality of the sides.

Regarding the contents of the future treaty between Latvia and the Soviet Union, Krastins emphasized that, in his opinion, the first article should unambiguously state that the Soviet Union restores recognition of the Latvian Republic as an independent state and subject of international law.

Latvia's Bishers Explains Plans for Border

LD2108222590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2017 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer] The decision has been made in Latvia to restore the republic's state borders. Our evening talk was recorded today in Riga.

[Begin recording] [Polkov] On what principles will the restoration of Latvia's borders be based?

[Bishers] A state border is a feature of any sovereign state. And since we are now restoring the sovereignty of the Latvian republic, it should be clearly marked with a border to know where its sovereignty extends. I don't think there should be a particularly large number of contentious, particularly complex issues inasmuch as with the exception of Abrene-Pitalovo Rayon, there have been practically no changes after 1920 when our borders were recognized.

[Polkov] After the restoration of Latvia's borders, on what principles will emigration from and immigration into the republic, the entry of relatives, and so on be based?

[Bishers] We envision a relaxed regime, that is, a regime without visas for entry and exit for short-term visits up to a month. If it is a longer period then, of course, it will be necessary to register officially. But for the time being these are proposals.

As far as customs inspection is concerned, then this, to an extent, will start even now. This customs control at the borders will be introduced gradually. [end recording]

Yeltsin Interviewed on Latvian Talks, Vacation

90UN2638A Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 31 Jul 90 p 3

["Portion" of interview with B. Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, by LETA correspondent A. Olbik; date not given: "Meeting in Jurmala"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] **Our correspondent met with B. Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and had a long conversation with him. We present a portion of the conversation for your attention.**

[Olbik] Boris Nikolayevich, as a resident of Latvia I am very pleased that so lofty a guest has visited our republic in particular. I would only like to know how much your visit here has to do with state matters. Or is it a private trip for the exclusive purpose of resting?

[Yeltsin] In fact my vacation to Latvia for 10-12 days is not accidental, and I plan to do some work while I rest. Why did I pick out Latvia in particular? In the first place, I am invigorated by the breezes of the Baltic and the climate of Jurmala, which I have already visited more than once. And in general I have many ties to Latvia. As you know, the year 1988 was a very difficult one and even a very decisive one for me in a sense. Back then I rested and regained my strength here, and it was from here that the news went out around the country that Yeltsin was alive and well and that he had not given up the struggle against the party bureaucracy.

My trip this time has a somewhat pragmatic character. I wanted to rest, to try to learn more about Latvia, to meet with its residents, and on the whole get a better idea of the Latvians' attitude toward Russia and the destiny of our states. And toward our future treaty. And of course I wish to become better acquainted with the leadership of the republic and personally acquaint myself with Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Although I am formally acquainted with him, friendly relations ripen more quickly under everyday, unofficial conditions.

[Olbik] And what were the first results, Boris Nikolayevich?

[Yeltsin] Frankly speaking, all my expectations were surpassed. It is as though the meetings in Latvia highlighted the promise of our future relations. Your head of state, Anatolijs Valerianovich Gorbunovs, is a very interesting person who encompasses a splendid collection of human qualities. He appeared to me to be a quite balanced, far-seeing politician with the right amount of determination. He is a man with whom I want to communicate and cooperate successfully. In my opinion, he can please anyone...

[Olbik] Have the two of you talked about concluding a treaty between Latvia and Russia?

[Yeltsin] And why do you think I am showering praises upon him? (He laughs.) Of course we have talked about it. And in principle our views are in 100 percent agreement. Perhaps you will recall that I once said that most probably the first such treaty would be concluded with one of the Baltic states. And it will be done without any preliminary conditions. I am talking about a comprehensive treaty: Political, economic, and social, with a section on interethnic relations and, of course, mention of cultural ties and so on. That is to say that it will be an equal agreement between two sovereign states. And although I did send out a letter with proposals to all 14 republics, one must keep in mind that our first conversation on this theme took place before my official appeals.

I believe that a conversation is underway with the leaders of three states—Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia—and we are already discussing questions of a future four-sided meeting (Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) at which we will be able to plan further tactics for joint actions. I am convinced that consultations at the level of chairmen will contribute to a real relaxation of tensions on the part of the center and of tensions in general—both outside and inside the Baltic states themselves.

[Olbik] And how will that coincide with the not very delighted, to put it gently, attitude of the president of the country toward the Baltic region?

[Yeltsin] An impression exists that Gorbachev has not considered everything as he should in this instance. It is possible that he is very busy. Apparently he presumes that Russia's proposals concerning treaties with the Baltic states are that same "creeping" separatism about which so much has been said and written. Perhaps one might stretch the matter and assume that some republic has a tendency toward separatism. Okay, I will assume it. But Russia and separatism... Pardon me, but even an overactive imagination cannot digest that one. Russia is not climbing into the Procrustean bed of separatism—it is an absolutely sovereign state with a clear idea of its place and role in the federation. We do not wish either to aggrandize ourselves or abase ourselves. We only want one thing: peaceful and mutually profitable partnership. What is inconceivable in the idea that Russia intends to conclude a treaty with the sovereign states in the Baltic region? After all, we have gotten close to concluding treaties with the United Kingdom, and we are conducting negotiations with the United States and Japan. Why can we not do it with our old neighbors?

I am sharply opposed to the economic blockade of Lithuania, and I have already talked and written to Gorbachev about it. After all, there was no such blockade in relation to Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and the GDR. But against our own people—a blockade, if you please.

[Olbik] Please tell us how much work has been done on the treaty that we are discussing.

[Yeltsin] Working groups have just been created—with equal representation—to work on the structure and content of each paragraph of the treaty. For instance the section on interethnic relations reflects the mutual desire of Latvia and Russia for a peaceful, considered approach to the problems of the residence and immigration of the nonindigenous population of our states. So that there will be no misunderstandings on that issue.

[Olbik] You declared earlier that a bilateral agreement should be concluded within three months...

[Yeltsin] No, we now believe that this treaty should be ratified within a shorter time period—a month or 45 days. It seems to me that this will reduce tensions in this region.

[Olbik] Boris Nikolayevich, the very word "treaty" encompasses such notions as mutual profit, independent partnership, and equality in the realization of the letter and the spirit of the agreement. But here is what troubles me: Russia is a rich country and may give Latvia (or any other state) a priceless raw-materials "policy" from among its treasures. But what can Latvia give Russia?

[Yeltsin] Understand that in normal (and not one-sided) treaties any country, even the poorest, can be an indispensable partner in interstate relations. In any case

Latvia (and the Baltic region in general) is hardly an underdeveloped province, but rather a state with highly developed industry, a traditionally high level of culture, which is dearer to us than gold, and rich scientific and technical potential. To that may be added tourism, vacationing, your light industry, radio engineering sector, component products, and so on. And all of this is performed at high quality.

You have a highly developed agroindustrial complex, and I believe that in the future Russia will be able to remove the tension in Latvia with the advent of surpluses of food. This certainly can take place if dynamic market relations triumph. And the interests uniting our countries are not so few either. We do not wish to pose as philanthropists of some sort—no, we wish to be equals. I propose that our treaty relations be built in two stages. And for the time being we are not talking about world prices for raw materials or equipment. But everything will clear up only when we sit down at the negotiation table. I am convinced—and this is the result of the preliminary meetings with the leadership of the Republic of Latvia—that we will find a mutually acceptable, viable system of relations between our states.

[Olbik] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich, for the optimistic note in our conversation. Have an excellent vacation!

Latvian-Belorussian Border Dispute Cited

90UN2603A Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 27 Jul 90 p 3

[Article by P. Senkov, Kraslavskiy Rayon: "Posts of Dissension—Someone Wanted Very Much To Set Them Up on the Latvian and Belorussian Border"]

[Text] Grain-growers of the Precepts of Ilyich Kolkhoz [Collective Farm], Verkhnedvinsk Rayon, Vitebsk Oblast met with a rather unpleasant "surprise" on Saturday, 21 July, in their meadows and fields. Approximately 1,400 meters from today's official border, a rather large group of people was cutting a clearing along the Rosica River and was setting up border posts with the Latvian emblem.

In doing this, they were absolutely not interested in the opinion of Belorussians who, in the words of correspondents of the newspaper VITEBSKIY RABOCHIY, tried to bring the neighbors to reason. They said, boys, what are you doing? However, the "boys"—a group of citizens of Latvian nationality—not only did not react, but they tried to prove that the Latvian border of 1939 was being established. And Janis Karlovic Strauhmanis, an assistant professor at the Latvian University and candidate of geographical sciences, even displayed a secret map where the border was designated...

These actions evoked a sharp protest from the Belorussian side. The ispolkom [executive committee] of the Verkhnedvinsk Rayon Soviet demanded the immediate establishment of a commission on evaluation of damage caused and initiation of proceedings against the guilty parties.

Our Latvian press and television also reacted to the incident. But in a very distinctive way. Charged in the incident was the Kraslavskiy Rayispolkom [rayon executive committee], which did not inform the Verkhnedvinsk Rayon about the impending action and which did not assist its participants. The question arises: What meaning lies behind such statements? Perhaps, the Kraslavskiy Rayispolkom was supposed to assist "the usurpation group" in justifying the territorial claims on the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and to create a new hotbed of tension like Karabakh or Osh?

"However, we have never had and we do not have any territorial claims on our neighbors," declared U. Kirjusin, chairman of the Kraslavskiy Rayispolkom. "To the contrary, we have lived very amicably over the course of very many years. Construction brigades from the neighboring republic helped us build cattle-breeding facilities. We also shared seeds, equipment, spare parts, building materials, and even...bridegrooms and brides. It is not accidental that the Belorussians have many relatives in our border farms. A lot of people from the neighboring republic live here. Therefore, we were very surprised by the article in the local newspaper EZERZEME."

"We will mark the border," D. Dylba, cochairman of the duma of the rayon department of the NFL [Latvian People's Front], reported about the fact that "real" state sovereignty of the republic is being established, and that a marking of the border will be conducted. Through the 19 July issue of the newspaper, he invited all of those willing to the place of work—the mouth of the Rosica River—with shovels, axes, and saws. And in the evening, here for a meeting. Naturally, we could not disregard such a summons. On 20 July the rayispolkom approved a decision that forbade any activity on the border with the Belorussian SSR. We proceeded from the fact that the establishment of borders between neighboring republics is not a matter for ispolkoms but for higher organs of authority. We did not get any instructions on this score. Therefore, to avoid a border conflict and its political consequences, any kind of actions on the establishment of a border with the Belorussian SSR, as well as the conduct of unsanctioned rallies, were prohibited. Verification of the execution of this decision was charged to the department of internal affairs of the rayispolkom.

As we see, this did not stop the participants of the action. Moreover, they landed their assault party not only along the Rosica River, but also in Skaune, where 12 border posts were also established. It is true that apparently there were no conflicts there. However, passions were boiling over along the Rosica River. They say that there were not many local residents there. But, as was said in the rayispolkom, buses and passenger cars with people arrived from other regions of the republic, and a KAZ [Kama Automobile Plant] truck arrived loaded with previously readied border posts, and work went into full swing. An opening was cleared, posts were dug in, trees were cut...

The "state sovereignty" that was established in this way, as was recently determined by a jointly established commission, resulted in the loss of more than 100 trees. In addition, the Verkhnedvinsk forestry office filed a monetary claim on the order of 1,318 rubles against the organizers of the action for the destruction of plants in an environmental protection zone.

One would like to think that the dispute over this will be settled.

"But, still, all of this has left us with an unpleasant aftertaste," said A. Orlov, chairman of the commission, "both on the Belorussian side and on our side. Apparently, someone wants very much to set up posts of dissension between our people, showing absolutely no interest in the opinions of residents of the neighboring areas. But we have nothing to divide. We have lived as good neighbors, and, I am confident, we will maintain the same good neighbor relations in the future as well."

New Latvian Peasant Union Party Formed

90UN2603B Riga SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH in Russian 17 Jul 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Peteris Krugalauzs, a sponsor of the constituent Peasant Union conference, by Sergey Prokoshenko, LETA correspondent; place and date not given: "The New Old Party"]

[Text] One more party has appeared in the spectrum of the political life of the republic. However, it cannot absolutely be called new, inasmuch as something similar has already existed in the history of Latvia. We are talking about the Peasant Union, whose constituent conference was held on 5 July in Riga. Thus, what has happened—the birth of a new party or the recreation of an old one? To get an answer to this question, a correspondent of LETA [Latvian Telegraph Agency], met with Peteris Krugalauzs, one of the sponsors of the conference.

[Krugalauzs] First of all, I must say that the Peasant Union of Latvia, in contrast to already existing agricultural organizations, is not a professional but a political organization, and it will come out as a parliamentary party for the defense of the interests of the peasantry. We hope it will unite not only agricultural workers, but all of those who are troubled by the problems of the village, regardless of what their profession is. More than anything, our union will be an organization with a conservative cast with a centrist orientation.

[LETA] And, nonetheless, what dictates the need for the appearance of your union? For it would seem that the interests of rural residents have been represented by other organizations for a long time?

[Krugalauzs] However, it turns out most often that they need the votes of village residents first and foremost. When the votes are obtained, the problems of the peasants quickly recede into the background. Virtually half of the deputies in parliament are elected in rural rayons. However, questions associated with agriculture are still not being resolved in the Supreme Soviet as would be desired. For example, a proposal was made so that young people would perform alternative service by working in agriculture. But the intelligentsia in parliament did not support us then. Why, you say to them, were you not elected by peasants? But they quickly mention that they are the People's Front, the Interfront, social democrats, or independents. And there is no one to ask. Therefore, we want to have our own faction in parliament which would answer to us for the position it takes in discussions on questions that are important to us. Eight members of the Supreme Soviet of the republic have already participated in the work of our conference, and we hope that in time the Peasant Union will be represented in parliament with a more significant number of deputies.

[LETA] Can it be said that you revived that party which existed up to the year 1940?

[Krugalauzs] It is another time and different people now. It is for this reason that today's Peasant Union of Latvia was given a somewhat different name from the former Lettish Peasant Union.

[LETA] This means that your union is not only for Latvians?

[Krugalauzs] Yes, right now it has Lithuanians and Russians. Although there are undoubtedly fewer of them than there are of Latvians. In any case, our union is open to representatives of all nationalities of Latvia. About 130 delegates took part in the conference, among which there were urbanites as well. We adopted party statutes; that is, the Peasant Union of Latvia already exists. We will ask the Supreme Soviet to register us officially. The conference established a working group to prepare the first congress, which we plan to hold in the autumn. Simultaneously, we will establish supporting groups of the Peasant Union in areas of Latvia. Our deputies in parliament will take part in the preparation of a package of laws on agrarian reform.

[LETA] You are for the priority of individual farms?

[Krugalauzs] Yes, but we recognize the right of the individual peasant to establish collective forms of farming.

[LETA] What role will the personality of Karlis Ulmanis play in the activity of your union?

[Krugalauzs] Proposals have already been circulated at the conference to make him an honorary member of our union. As a result, it was agreed that a decision in this regard will be made by the first congress of the party. We will not make some kind of fetish out of Ulmanis, but we also do not plan to pretend that such a person did not exist in our history.

[LETA) Do you hope to play the same kind of significant role in the political life of Latvia that was played by the Peasant Union in the time of Ulmanis?

[Krugalauzs] No, this is simply not realistic now. Because even the portion of rural residents has decreased by a factor of two to three. In the West, approximately four percent of the population is engaged in agriculture, and in Latvia it is about 17 percent. So that a third or fourth place among the parties would be quite satisfactory.

Estonia Names Delegation for RSFSR Talks

LD2208103890 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1700 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Summary] At the 14th extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet today Chairman Arnold Ruutel said that talks with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] will start on 23 August at 1100 in the Kremlin. The delegation for the talks was endorsed by the session as follows: Delegation leader Vlo Nugis, Marju Lauristin, Juri Raidla, Endel Lippmaa, and Indrek Toome. Of the 82 deputies present today, 64 deputies voted in favor, 10 were against and 6 abstained. It was agreed that the Estonian committee should be approached for their support of the delegation and that any experts required should be appointed by the leader of the delegation. Deputy Lebedev, speaking in the name of Russian-speaking deputies, said that they have a right to set up a commission of their own for the talks because none of their representaives have been included in the delegation.

Estonia's Toome on Talks With USSR, RSFSR

LD2108112490 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 0900 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] In the hall of sessions on Toompea, the 14th extraordinary session of the [Estonian] Supreme Soviet continues work. [passage omitted] Yesterday the issue [of the Estonian delegation for talks with the RSFSR] was discussed very thoroughly by the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and a final proposal reached was distributed here today which says: To endorse a delegation for the talks with both USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic in the following compositions: Ulo Nugis, leader of the delegation; Marju Lauristin, Endel Lippmaa, Juri Raidla, and Indrek Toome.

And here, in front of our microphone is Indrek Toome. [passage omitted]

[Toome] I would say that this two and one half-hour discussion yesterday, which produced these five names as our joint decision, and which adopted the resolution that precisely those five should work as an authorized commission for the purpose of talks with both the USSR and the RSFSR in the name of the Supreme Soviet, is evidently quite the optimum. I am not saying this becuase I am myself included. [passage omitted]

When we discussed the question of whether there was an overlap in the circle of problems, then we found that it did overlap in respect of a number of issues: It is a political agreement which must be arrived at, a juridical-political agreement, it is an economic agreement; then there is a certain kind of military agreement, and so on and so forth.

Another principle was set down yesterday and is perhaps to be supported by the majority in my opinion, even if the discussion here today demonstrates that the battle is quite fierce: The principle for setting up the delegation is of course the only correct one, being the principle of competence and not the principle of representation of different political forces. A delegation must indeed also have the Supreme Soviet's authorization for holding the talks, and I do not agree with the people who have claimed here that there is no need for the Supreme Soviet's authorization. No, I personally think that the Supreme Soviet's authorization must exist.

Something that we all must understand and make sure of before we arrive there is that we are not going to Moscow to present an ultimatum of any kind. We are going to agree first and foremost that the rebirth of an independent republic of Estonia is undeniable; that this is the unwavering will of the Estonian people. We also have to think how both states—say, in the course of the talks—would save their political faces. Because let us recognize this clearly: If we are talking about those talks now, then we understand that this is a case of different states, and that naturally these states—the USSR, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Estonia—have their own firm goals and interests. This is what we indeed must understand, that neither the Russian Federation, nor the USSR can have sole interests identical to those of the Republic of Estonia. It also has its own interests. [passage omitted]

We must evidently clarify another matter: This continuity we talk about, for the purpose of restoring the Republic of Estonia, must indeed contain three very important components or principles which are not to be argued about, and which are always acknowledged whenever Russia or the Union are to be faced. They are: Our status as a state, which was forcibly discontinued in 1940: That is, its political and economic development, which is not to be haggled about. Our aim is to restore the Republic of Estonia to an independent state. This state had a territory, and this too must be included in the term of continuity as an important principle; as well as its citizenry.

By the way, today the issue was raised again of whether there should not be non-Estonian representatives included in the composition of the delegation. We debated at length in the presidium on this. If we proceed from these three major continuity principles which I spoke about just now, then only representatives of the Estonian people can be in the composition of the delegation, representatives of the Estonian citizenry, that is, either citizens of the Republic of Estonia or their descendants. This is my firm opinion. [passage omitted]

Estonian Supreme Soviet Session Continues 21 Aug

LD2108213690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Estonian Supreme Soviet continued its work in Tallinn today. Heimar Lenk, our Estonian correspondent, reports:

[Lenk] Whereas the first month of the work of the new composition of the now multiparty Estonian Supreme Soviet was mainly involved with the adoption of a political declaration, at the most recent sittings deputies have more and more often been faced with tackling complex economic problems. The work of the 14th session began with a discussion on the progress of the talks between Estonia and Russia. Since the system of central distribution and management is operating worse than ever, Estonia is trying to establish direct contacts with individual republics, first and foremost, of course, with Russia, as its oldest trading partner and neighbor. Much has already been achieved in this sphere. Talks between the construction workers of Estonia and the oilworkers of Siberia in order to solve the complex situation of fuel supplies to the republic are continuing at this moment. The oilmen are interested in continuing construction work in western Siberia by Estonian firms. But so far no agreement has been reached on oil prices and the volume of construction work. There is a similar situation in other industries, too, so there are quite a number of problems awaiting solution by the deputies.

The session is continuing its work.

Baltics Mark Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact Anniversary

'Fire-Chain' Response Intended

LD2108145690 Moscow TASS in English 1248 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga August 21 TASS—People in the Baltic republics intend to engage in a "fire-chain" action in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on Thursday [23 August] to mark the 51st anniversary of the signing of the secret protocols to the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact.

"The pact, in the opinion of the Latvian Popular Front (LPF), "for years determined the further destiny of the Baltic republics, depriving them of state independence."

"The fire-chain action is a continuation of the Baltic human-chain movement launched a year ago," LPF leader Dainis Ivans, first deputy chairman of parliament, said during a television appearance on Monday. On August 23 last year, people in the Baltic republics formed a human chain across the three republics in a display of their aspirations for independence.

"Some of the hopes entertained then have come true now," Ivans said. "The republican parliaments adopted acts proclaiming the restoration of state independence. We have gained experience in democratic struggle and parliamentary work. This required compromises and great efforts. But, despite difficulties, the Baltic peoples are proceeding along the chosen common road."

With intervals of 15 minutes, fires will be lighted on Thursday night to the toll of bells first in Estonia, then in Latvia and Lithuania. Deputies of all levels have been invited to participate.

Representatives of the popular movements will then begin to collect signatures on a petition appealing for the Baltics issue to be referred to the CSCE conference in Paris in autumn this year.

The biggest event will take place in the Lithuanian residential area of Lazdijai near the Polish border, with participants intending to cross the border in a demand for rendering it open.

Baltic Border Chief on Action

LD2208060190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] A tense situation has developed on the Soviet-Polish border, in Lazdijai Rayon, Lithuania. Lieutenant General Gaponenko, chief of the troops of the Baltic border district [position as heard], stated this to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, which has asked him to comment on the situation. He said that the extremist wing of Sajudis, together with the People's Fronts of Latvia and Estonia, is preparing an operation on the border which has already been given the title: Continuation of the Baltic Road. What is planned? It is that people should turn up and obliterate the border in order to move freely across it.

It has been announced officially that several tens of thousands of people will gather there. It will happen tomorrow, the anniversary of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. In addition to crossing the border without documents, it is intended to destroy border signs and engineering constructions. In other words, there will be a patent violation of the law on the state border, adopted in 1982. Evidently, something similar to what happened in Azerbaijan at the beginning of this year might occur. Moreover, these events are taking place against the will of the government of Lithuania, Lt. Gen. Gaponenko stressed. As far as the border troops are concerned, they are prepared to make some concessions from the point of view of processing documents, but they will implement border crossings only at the checkpoint.

Military To Seek Solution

LD2208110290 Moscow TASS in English 1039 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—If appeals have no effect on participants in the "European Way" action who want to cross the Soviet-Polish border en masse on Thursday [23 August], border guards will act in accordance with the law, Baltic border region chief Lieutenant General Valentin Gaponenko said in an interview published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA today.

Two weeks ago, the Lithuanian Sajudis movement and the Latvian and Estonian Popular Fronts began preparing for the "European Way." They plan to demolish the Soviet-Polish border and cross it near Lazdijai, Gaponenko said.

It was officially announced that tens of thousands of people would gather in the area, he said.

Guards along the border have been put on alert, reinforced and provided with armoured vehicles. However, the military authorities will seek a political solution to the conflict, he said.

The Lithuanian government has been officially warned of the dire consequences of the action, the general stressed.

The Lithuanian government's official reaction to the warning was "correct" and it issued corresponding orders to its staff.

"However, facts show no changes in the republic. Efforts to implement the action are increasing," he said.

If there is a need to let the people cross the border, this could be done at a checkpoint under the control of border authorities and customs officials, Gaponenko said.

Guards are prepared to cut bureaucratic procedures. "Crossing on August 23 can be allowed without visas, just by passports. Border guards support a civilised end to the action," he said.

RSFSR

Reportage Continues on Yeltsin's Russian Tour

Discusses Free Enterprise Zone

LD2108141190 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Alla Prozorova]

[Text] Vladivostok August 21 TASS—The idea of turning the entire Soviet Far East, not only its individual areas, into a free enterprise zone was first mooted this morning during a meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and researchers at the Far Eastern branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Yeltsin, who is now touring the republic, pointed out that the idea deserved attention but that is was necessary to fill in the details.

The Far Eastern economic region now takes up 27 per cent of the Soviet Union's territory and affords one-third of the country's prospected mineral resources, including non-ferrous and rare-earth metals, a large share of hydraulic resources, 40 per cent of the Soviet Union's forests, and one-third of all fish stocks.

At the same time, the region accounts for only three per cent of the Soviet Union's industrial output. Approximately the same percentage of the country's population live here.

"I am not an advocate of the forcible relocation of people from other areas of Russia. This must occur naturally, with people being attracted by better living conditions that should be created here," Yeltsin said.

He added that people in the Far East themselves should show more enterprise and independence in addressing complex economic and social problems and draw foreign investments more boldly.

Yeltsin expects a similar approach from regional science. He recalled that the process of establishing a Russian academy of sciences had been temporarily suspended until principles for shaping its structure, different from previous administrative-command methods, are found.

Yeltsin familiarised himself with the activities of two institutes of the Far Eastern branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences: The Soil Biology Institute and the Institute of Geology.

Meets Primorye Managers

LD2108150990 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Konoplitsky]

[Text] Vladivostok August 21 TASS—President of the Russian parliament Boris Yeltsin is concluding his stay in the Primorye territory. A broad range of questions of ecology, science, free economic zones was discussed. The theme of the active participation of local soviets in their solution was the main theme during the meetings of the head of the Russian parliament with deputies at every level and with economic managers.

The role of local soviets increases immeasurably with the development of economic independence of regions. Soviets become masters of the territory. But the force of inertia and the reliance on the omnipotent centre are hindrances.

During meetings with local government and economic managers, with workers of enterprises, fishermen, the public, Yeltsin promised to give every assistance in ensuring that enterprises are given a free hand and in the working out of the taxation policies in accordance with world experience.

From Vladivostok, the president of the Russian parliament will go to Sakhalin and Kamchatka. Yeltsin flies to Sakhalin in the small hours of August 22.

TASS correspondent in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Yevgeny Belovitsky reported that the programme for Yeltsin's stay in Sakhalin and on the Kurils is as hectic as on the other stages of his three-week tour of the republic.

After a short rest Yeltsin will leave for the South Kurils to stay a whole day there. There are plans for visiting the islands Kunashir and Shikotan. On August 23 the head of the Russian parliament will go to the north of Sakhalin, the only place in the Soviet Far East where there is intensive oil extraction. Next day he will have conversations with fishermen and miners in Yuzhno- Sakhalinsk, with deputies of local soviets, with representatives of political parties working in the region and the public.

There might be changes in the schedule. A typhoon is approaching Sakhalin and the Kurils, and the weather might interfere with aviators' plans. The alternative version envisages Yeltsin's tour of the south of Sakhalin only.

Addresses Maritime Kray Problems

LD2108175190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The Far Eastern Part of the working trip by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, around the republic is continuing. The head of the Russian parliament today acquainted himself with Vladivostok. Listen to a report by our special correspondent, Sergey Omelchenko:

[Omelchenko] Yeltsin's program in Vladivostock was just as full as the two previous weeks of the working visit by the head of the Russian parliament. Boris Nikolayevich touched upon all the urgent, topical, and troublesome problems of the Maritime Kray. In the morning, he called upon two scientific research institutes of the Far Eastern section of the USSR Academy of Sciences—the Soil Biology and Geological Institutes.

At the meeting the scientists noted that the development of science is proceeding in a disgraceful way in the Far East, the material base is weak, and the long-term program of the development of the region is not working. Yeltsin stressed that the creation of a free enterprise zone in Maritime Kray will help to put the situation right.

At a meeting with specialists of the industrial timber complex, problems of the thrifty and assiduous use of valuable raw material were discussed. In order for this to be achieved, Yeltsin believes, the local soviets must become bosses of their natural wealth. During this conversation he said that it is possible that at the second session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet in September, a law on numerically small peoples may be adopted.

In the evening there was a meeting in the house of soviets with people's deputies, representatives of public organizations and of the strike committee of Maritime Kray miners. Boris Nikolayevich summed up the results of his visit to Maritime Kray. Here is a fragment of his speech:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Of course, there are quite a few different impressions. In Vladivostok there are a number of enterprises and organizations of your fishermen, and today there was Dalzavod, and the scientists, and in Nakhodka port, commercial and public catering enterprises, and those in the services sphere. I do not of course, want to get critical. That is not why I came. I need rather to sense your problems a bit closer, to feel them in my heart, as it were, so that I can then really help the region which today is so far away and finds itself in a difficult situation. Therefore, as far as work is concerned, you are, of course, working no worse than anyone else. As far as nature is concerned, your nature is fine, quite beautiful; it is a special region, and I have accepted an invitation to come here next year on vacation. [applause]

As far as Vladivostok is concerned, of course it is a beautiful city, but alongside its fine architecture there are run-down buildings as well which, of course, are not needed and which, of course, we must decide what to do with. We must increase housing construction, we must strengthen the construction base, but again, through this independence which you are getting—you will also be moving over to markets, not only international but also our union market—you will be able to put all these things right. Because you cannot put things right by slogans or by decisions which you have already adopted—not just one, not two, not three, not five—by the Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, and the Central Committee and Council of Ministers jointly and separately. And I, of course, will refer to the Supreme Soviet so that the session will support your release from these chains and grant you the status of a free city. [end recording]

[Omelchenko] Tonight Yeltsin is expected in Sakhalin. In the morning the head of the Russian parliament will be met in Yuzhnokurilsk. The visit by the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet to the republic continues.

Departs for Sakhalin 21 Aug

LD2108174190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The second day of the working trip of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in the Maritime Kray turned out to be extremely rich in events. [passage omitted]

Talking about the well-known decision No. 608 for the coal mining industry, Yeltsin stressed: Let's wait for another month, and if the Union government will keep dragging its feet, the parliament and Council of Ministers of Russia will take it upon themselves to implement the decision.

Today Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin left for Sakhalin.

Arrives on Sakhalin Island

LD2208081190 Moscow TASS in English 0641 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk August 22 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, on a fact-finding tour of his huge republic, arrived on Sakhalin Island today.

The region has vast natural resources but its infrastructure is largely underdeveloped, with most industries oriented towards extracting oil, gas and coal or lumbering and fishing.

Constituents fed up with social tensions and their living conditions gave their votes to radical deputies, supporting sweeping economic reforms, a market economy and economic independence.

Professor Valentin Fedorov, pro-rector of Moscow's National Economy Institute, was elected chairman of the Sakhalin and the Kuril Island Regional Legislature on a radical mandate of economic revival.

Fedorov supports private entrepreneurship and wants to set up joint-stock societies, commercial banks and farms in the area.

Speaking to reporters at the local airport, Yeltsin said "the region should be officially granted the status of a free trade zone. It will then feel itself more confident and will develop more energetically."

The new bill on property expected to be passed by the Russian parliament will allow private property, Yeltsin said.

A free trade zone ensures a more favourable regime for foreign capital, Yeltsin said, calling Sakhalin region one of Russia's most promising areas.

During his three-day stay in the area, Yeltsin will also visit the Kuril Islands.

Regions Must Form Basis of RSFSR Economy

LD2208084590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Aug 90 Second Edition p 3

[Article by A. Adamesku, chief of the regional economics department of the RSFSR Council for the Study of Productive Forces under the USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee], and O. Krivoruchko, senior scientific staffer of the Council for the Study of Productive Forces under the USSR Gosplan, under the rubric "Economists' Position": "To Destroy or To Create"]

[Text] The Declaration of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] State Sovereignty adopted at the First Congress of Russian People's Deputies opens up new routes and possibilities for the republic to acquire genuine economic sovereignty as part of a Union undergoing renewal. Russia's socioeconomic development is distinguished by a great variety of regional conditions and peculiarities, and consequently a regional approach plays a fundamental role in its scientific foundation. At the same time, analysis of the debate that occurred at the congress about various versions of the idea of the RSFSR's economic sovereignty and of subsequent articles on this theme shows that its territorial aspect remains the least elaborated. The above primarily refers to an assessment of the RSFSR's participation in an interrepublic division of labor carried out on the basis of economic calculations taking account of world prices.

What has developed as of today is an unequal exchange of goods with other republics. Because of the imperfection of the mechanism in operation, prices of basic types of heavy industry products exported from the RSFSR are considerably depressed compared with light and food industry products imported here. Of course, if we used world market prices as a base in interrepublic exchange, then instead of a negative balance Russia would have a positive one.

The phased transition of individual territories to self-management and self-financing is now being implemented in the Russian Federation. The adopted Law "On the General Principles of Local Self-Government and Local Management in the USSR" serves these purposes. Analysis of conceptual models of the transition of ASSR's [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics], krays, and oblasts to the principles of economic autonomy shows that, along with positive features, there is also evidence of drawbacks, primarily associated with the fact that economic accountability in many cases leads to economic isolation. Therefore an important problem is makin the transition to principles of economic autonomy which unite rather than disunite the interests of ASSR's, oblasts, and krays. Here it is necessary not to downgrade but to enhance the efficiency of overall regional development in the RSFSR as a whole. The question naturally arises of whether it is right that ASSR's, oblasts, and krays are taken as the main component in the conception of Russia's territorial development which is based on economic sovereignty, and major economic regions whose importance to the national economy is much weightier are omitted. After all, 11 major regions are designated in the RSFSR, each of which can exceed any Union republic in its potential, except the Ukraine. So should what has been created now be destroyed or perhaps, on the contrary, developed?

Let us look, for instance, at the possible results of such destruction of the Central, Urals, Volga, West Siberian, and North Caucasus Economic Regions. Today their share in the value of the country's industrial output exceeds 40 percent. And if we break up this potential, we will undermine all intra-Union cooperation and specialization. And what in return? An even tenser situation in the domestic market? New coupons and ration cards, this time for all types of products? Meanwhile the frightening prospects could become a reality for all republics, and everyone will suffer in such a turn of events. For that reason it is impossible not to take account of global laws of development and distribution of productive forces. And it would be much more effective to take the already formed economic regions as the basis for regional economic accountability in future plans, not the current interoblast demarcation.

It is precisely the specialization and overall development of the established economic complexes which should, in our view, become the basis of the territorial administration system. Only in this way can the peculiarities of natural and economic conditions and of the division of labor be utilized more fully. And here the idea of designating regional centers, which could become a considerable counterweight to the discernible economic isolation of regions, merits attention.

It is understandable that the formation of a system for managing major RSFSR economic regions will not take place at a stroke. In the first phase it could be imagined as an organizational and economic association working on the principles of economic accountability, whose voluntary members would include oblasts, krays, and autonomies. Then, in step with more rational cooperation between and integration of economies, combined efforts could give quicker results in producing consumer goods, cleaning up the environment, and increasing the population's living standard. Incidentally, this is precisely the way that Europe's "Common Market" is going. And we in Russia should not destroy the beginnings of such an organization. They should only be developed.

Therefore today it is high time that efficient and effective management organs were created in major economic rayons. Then a general management system will be put in order and its effectiveness will be increased through the transfer to them of a number of important functions of central administrative organs, including of Union ministries. Interoblast (interregional) administration will also be simplified. And in the final analysis the pooling of forces and the integration of economic might will help to regenerate Russia.

Suggestions for RSFSR Party Program Published

PM2008120990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 90 Second Edition p 2

[Statement signed by V. Lipitskiy from the Communist-Reformers Section of the Democratic Platform in the CPSU; I. Osadchiy from the Preparatory Committee for the RSFSR Communist Party Constituent Congress; A. Prigarin from the Marxist Platform in the CPSU; and A. Sergeyev from the Russian Communists' Initiative Congress: "We Are In Favor of an Action Program"]

[Text] The second stage of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party Constituent Congress is drawing near. Whereas the first stage proclaimed that a new republic Communist Party had been set up within the CPSU, its political complexion must now be determined and documents must be adopted to clarify its position in perestroyka and its place in the work of renewing our society.

The public congress preparatory committee was the center pooling the efforts to draw up these documents. It was set up last April and comprised representatives of oblasts, krays, and autonomous formations especially delegated by their party organizations. It included workers, kolkhoz [collective farm] workers, scientists, engineering and technical personnel, and a large group of party committee and primary party organization secretaries.

The preparatory committee is receiving hundreds of letters making both direct assessments of the results of the first stage of the congress and submitting detailed proposals regarding the procedure and substance of its future implementation. Visitors are arriving here every day to speak personally of their worries and unease, to share new ideas, and to offer their assistance. Members of the preparatory committee are constantly driving out to the localities in an endeavor to assimilate the diverse problems and opinions within the republic.

Those who deemed it necessary to make specific suggestions with regard to the drafts of the future congress documents included many congress delegates, members of the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies "Communists of Russia" deputies' group, the RSFSR Komsomol [Lenin Communist Youth League] Central Committee, the Soviet Women's Committee, other associations, and public and state organizations.

The preparatory committee invited representatives of the main ideological streams that have currently taken shape within the party to take part in its work—namely from the section of Communist-Reformers within the Democratic Platform in the CPSU, the Russian Communists' initiative congress, and the Marxist Platform in the CPSU. It is particularly necessary to point out that an atmosphere of lack of bias toward all viewpoints was established within it from the very outset of cooperation, along with equal partnership relations.

Cooperation between Communists belonging to streams whose positions are not only different but even diametrically opposed on certain issues has encountered considerable difficulties. However, a field of consensus was defined after long disputes and discussions. We have now reached a general view of the nature of the fundamental document that can be submitted to the congress, along with its main contents.

It is to be an action program rather than a declaration of principles or positions. Society has now grown weary of sonorous noncommittal statements. When establishing their course, Russia's Communists intend to translate the 28th CPSU Congress' political line into specific actions.

This is to be an action program geared to working in crisis conditions and to overcoming this crisis. The party is rightly being reproached for concentrating on internal problems and thus slackening off its attention to its constructive mission and failing to suggest to society a path that would enable it to escape from the present grave phase of development. Russia's Communists must be prepared to make proposals of this kind and strive to implement them.

This is to be a political party's action program and not a component part of a system of state or economic management as was the CPSU previously. The RSFSR Communist Party's activity must include the elaboration of its view of our republic's prospects and ways to bring them into being, along with specific programs in specific areas: It must examine and assess suggestions made by other political forces; nominate and back its representatives in the soviets and other organs of power; implement its political line via these representatives; make active use of the right of legislative initiative; propagandize its own ideological positions; and engage in publishing, economic, and other activity envisaged by USSR and RSFSR laws.

This is to be the action program of an independent party within the CPSU. Russia's Communists do not regard the creation of their party as a mechanical act of merging organizations that existed previously within the republic but as the emergence of a new political force. The Communist Party must independently determine its position and tactics within the sovereign Russian Federation, as is the case in other Union republics.

This is to be the action program of a new party. Its formation will enable the republic's Communists, while preserving the best traditions and values, to resolutely abandon the negative legacy of the past and all the outmoded elements in the forms and methods of work and to boldly master innovative approaches.

The democratic nature of the action program is ensured not only by the way in which it is being prepared, but also by the fact that congress delegates will receive for discussion alternative options for some of its provisions and wordings which have been submitted by representatives of various streams. We consider this procedure not only normal but also preferable when adopting principled political decisions.

We have a real chance to develop the democratic principles within the organization and functioning of the party determined by the 28th congress, bring the activity of the emergent party closer to the concerns and demands of the peoples of Russia, and consolidate the efforts of Communists and other sociopolitical forces to overcome the crisis.

The growing tension in society, which will also undoubtedly affect the course of the congress, may seriously prevent this chance from being realized. We think that mass media articles, which expressed an unsatisfactory opinion of the RSFSR Communist Party Constituent Congress and its first secretary in advance, are at present intensifying the confrontation and alienating forces that are capable of joint actions. This may bring about an inverse reaction which will complicate the process of democratizing the CPSU.

We ourselves intend and propose that others objectively assess the second stage of the congress and the RSFSR Communist Party on their results and actions respectively. We urge those who are sincerely interested in overcoming the crisis not to distract people who are prepared to work to this end.

Gorkiy Renamed Nizhniy Novgorod, Declared Open

LD2108221590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] In Gorkiy today there was a session of the oblast Soviet of People's Deputies. It supported the decision of the town soviet to restore to the oblast center the historic name of Nizhniy Novgorod [Nizhegorodskaya] Oblast. The decision has been confirmed to liquidate its status of closed town and open it for visits by foreigners.

Illusions of '500 Days' Program Criticized

904A0556A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 33, 18-24 Aug 90 p 4

[Reply to readers' letter by economic "specialists": "500 Days: Reality or Illusion?]

[Text] **We have heard of a "500 days" program—what is this? Whose program is it? What about the "400 days" program? Will it be like the "10 Days That Shook the World"?**

[Signed] I. Yasnov, Ufa; Ye. Pugovichkina, Smolensk Oblast.

As far as we know, the program of strict transition to the market, scheduled by the day, was created in the original version by the young scholars A. Mikhaylov (USSR State Committee for Prices Institute) and M. Zadornov (USSR Academy of Sciences Economics Institute). This work was then "nursed" and perfected by G. Yavlinskiy, head of the Economic Reform Summary Department of the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission for Economic Reform and now deputy chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers. It has been presented to the president for acceleration of the economic transformations in the country. The program is called "400 days."

And now the specialists.

During discussion of the nominations for head of the government in the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, one candidate—M. Bocharov—distributed the document "Program of Transition to a Market Economy. Program Minimum: A Mandate of Trust for 500 Days." But this program cannot be called "Russian"—as IZVESTIYA, KOMERSANT, and other publications are doing—since it was rejected when put to the vote.

It should be emphasized that today none of the developers of the program of the development of economic reform for Russia, and several such versions have been proposed, has a right to call his version "Russian." Only the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session can enshrine the conclusive priority of this scenario or the other.

As far, however, as the understanding between M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin and N. Ryzhkov and I. Silayev on the formulation of a common program of economic transformations is concerned, it is as yet premature in our view to maintain that the "500 days" program will be made the basis of the joint work.

If, on the other hand, we go into the essence of the "500 days," the program emphasizes attention to the decisive elimination of the current economic mechanism but does not contain constructive proposals pertaining to the formation of new economic relations. The authors count on market relations appearing automatically, as soon as the administrative structures of management of the economy have been done away with.

Indeed, a market economy will emerge here in theory. But in practice such a version of reform would sever the already weak economic relations and bring about a mass stoppage of production, structural crisis, and sociopolitical shock.

A one-time abolition of subsidies, envisaged for the 30th and 50th days under conditions where they alone are keeping "afloat" thousands of enterprises with millions of workers, would lead to there being nothing with which to pay their wages within two weeks. This would immediately undermine trust in the new leadership of Russia. After all, a mandate of trust was obtained at the Russian congress precisely by those who promised to protect people against encroachments on their living standard and other socioeconomic disorders.

The last levers of government influence on the development of the economy and the country as a whole would be lost in the emergent chaos, and consequently no rational program of reform could be realized subsequently. Economic processes would finally be spontaneous and a decline in the living standard would be inevitable.

Whatever government were in office after this, its main concern would be not the prosperity but merely the physical survival of the citizens. But given the disintegration of the financial system and the collapse of production, the sole method of securing this would once again be administrative coercion—the extra-economic compulsion of the producers, requisitioning, consumption quotas, and so forth. The mere possibility of thinking about economic recovery would be forfeited for many years.

An attempt to schedule by the day the entire course of the impending transformations catches the eye in the "500 days" program. But how fruitful is such an approach? Transition to the market is a large-scale economic revolution, a total transformation of the main socioeconomic characteristics. The entire trajectory leading to the market cannot in this situation be "totted up" in advance. It would be far more realistic to describe merely the first several steps, shape the main mechanisms of progress, and specify and supplement the chosen program as the reform is realized.

It is significant that there is evidently no complete unity even among the supporters of the "500 days." The weekly DELOVOY MIR for 31 July 1990 published a "400 days" concept of accelerated transition to the market signed by G. Yavlinskiy, A. Mikhaylov, and M. Zadornov which textually coincides almost entirely with the program distributed by M. Bocharov but requires 100 days fewer for its realization.

One further economic illusion is the possibility of extensive privatization in an atmosphere of political instability and the almost total absence of market elements. Will the citizens want to purchase state property? How to organize production at the enterprise which has been acquired when there is as yet no market and still centralized supply? How to determine the prices of restaurants, stores, plants, and the leasing of land and avoid mass abuses without a market?

What is essential is not the proclamation of decisive but socially explosive programs, but a constructive procedure of formation of the market and the painless introduction of new and the supplanting of the old economic relations.

[Signed] A. Danilov-Danilyan, graduate student; RSFSR People's Deputy P. Medvedev; I. Nit, doctor of economic sciences; I. Kharlanov, economist and deputy of a rayon soviet of Moscow City; L. Freinkman, candidate of economic sciences.

Chita Oblast Deputies' Voting Records Published

PM1808135290 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Aug 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Kovalev under the rubric "Direct Line": "Passions Over Deputies"]

[Text] Chita—Considerable passions have flared in Chita since the weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY published the results of individual voting at the First Congress of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] People's Deputies on the six most acute questions. The oblast youth newspaper KOMSOMOLETS ZABAYKALYA at once responded with a lengthy commentary entitled "In Whose Hands Russia's Fate Lies." Assessing the congress activity of the people's 10 elected representatives from Chita Oblast, the youth newspaper passed a stern "verdict": With the exception of N. Samoylov, they all proved to be vehement conservatives.

"With strange unanimity," the newspaper voices indignation, "our deputies blackballed the two most important issues at the congress—Russia's sovereignty and the decree on power." The delegation also included two servicemen deputies—Lieutenant General I. Rymorov and Major General V. Yevstratov. The same issue of the newspaper conferred on their work at the congress a separate paragraph eloquently entitled "Generals for the Party's Diktat."

For some six weeks now KOMSOMOLETS ZABAYKALYA has been concentrating massive fire on the people's elected representatives. The idea is persistently suggested to readers that they have not justified the voters' trust and have organized "real sabotage" of the vote on the most fundamental issues. Their actions have been directed by "our generals and the leader of the Chita delegation"—meaning N. Malkov, first secretary of the CPSU oblast committee. And if this is so, the newspaper concludes, the question of recalling people's deputies must be raised.

The matter was not confined to hints. V. Kurochkin, the newspaper's editor, who recently announced his withdrawal from the CPSU, together with like-minded people organized a rally in Chita at which a resolution of no confidence in RSFSR People's Deputies N. Malkov and Maj. Gen. V. Yevstratov and on their recall was adopted. The editorial board took the initiative on collecting the signatures of Chita voters.

How fair are these accusations? Not one deputy from the oblast voted against the Declaration of Russia's Sovereignty or other draft documents taken as a basis by the congress. As regards the data published in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, they reflect the way these deputies voted only on certain points which elicited the greatest arguments. In particular, the Transbaykal deputies voiced their disagreement with the point which speaks of eliminating organs of party political leadership in the Armed Forces. Nor did they approve the proposal to suspend party membership for officials of law-enforcement organs.

But what does the youth newspaper's editorial board care for these explanations? It continues to stubbornly have its own way: They failed to justify the trust and betrayed Russia's interests. What further proof is needed, it says, if political organs remain in the Army and judges will continue to hold party cards?

I believe, however, that voters will not draw the hasty conclusions which KOMSOMOLETS ZABAYKALYA tries so hard to get them to draw. Having listened to the reports of their elected representatives, they will be able to make an objective and unbiased assessment of the activity of the people's deputies and, in the final analysis, they will have the last word.

Siberian Reactor's Closing Called 'Historic'

LD2108195490 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1449 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug (TASS)—At the Siberian chemical combine, one of the very first atomic reactors in the USSR has been shut down, IZVESTIYA reports today.

The paper notes that the decommissioning of the firstborn of Siberian atomic power engineering, which has worked for over 30 years, is a historic event for the residents of Tomsk-7, where the Siberian chemical combine and atomic power station are located.

The Siberian atomic station is working its last few months and soon another reactor will be shut down. As a result the amount of harmful effluent going into the Tom River will be halved.

Voronezh Oblispolkom Chairman Fired for Abuses

PM1908163690 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Komov under the "Direct Line" rubric: "The Laws Are Made for Everyone"]

[Text] Voronezh—Oblispolkom [oblast soviet executive committee] Chairman I. Ivlev was dismissed from his post by a roll-call vote at an extraordinary session of the oblast soviet of people's deputies.

Some 10 days ago a joint session of the obkom [oblast party committee] bureau and the oblast party organization control and auditing commission discussed articles in the oblast's youth newspaper devoted to gross violations of housing legislation by some of the oblast's leadership workers.

The published facts were confirmed. Oblast Soviet Chairman G. Kabasin lived in the oblispolkom guest house on a permanent basis, while the five-room apartment which was given to him without an official document stood empty. Moreover, he did not find time in the course of several years to sign off from his apartment in the capital and register according to his place of permanent residence and work.

Ispolkom [executive committee] Chairman I. Ivlev, having moved from a rural rayon to the oblast center, obtained a three-room apartment for three members of his family, and then changed it for a four-room apartment in which, to be on the safe side, he registered another woman, resident in a rural rayon, pretending she was his mother. In addition he promptly provided his daughter with a one-room apartment.

The obkom plenum relieved I. Ivlev of his duties as member of the CPSU Obkom Bureau for violating housing legislation and exploiting his official position for self-seeking purposes, and took note of his statement that for ethical reasons he would no longer be able to occupy the post of oblispolkom chairman.

The plenum also relieved G. Kabasin of his duties as member of the obkom bureau for actions bringing the prestige of an elected organ into disrepute.

An extraordinary session of the oblast soviet relieved I. Ivlev of his post of oblispolkom chairman and dismissed him from the oblast soviet presidium. The question of G. Kabasin will be settled after his return from hospital.

The deputies nominated five candidates for the post of ispolkom chairman. In the course of a week the soviet's standing commissions will familiarize themselves with the candidates, and the local newspapers, radio, and television will provide information on them. And then the elections will be held.

TV Station Opens in Kodinsk, Krasnoyarsk Kray

PM1908184790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Aug 90 First Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent V. Trokhin: "Television at Own Expense"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—In Kodinsk, the city of the builders of the Boguchanskaya GES [hydroelectric power station], the country's first people's television studio has started broadcasting.

It differs from the numerous cooperative cable studios in that it is funded by the city's inhabitants and enterprises on a voluntary basis. It has been decided by resolution of the city soviet to introduce, as of 1 January next year, a special tax at the rate of three rubles per family for the needs of the city television studio.

This was preceded by a citywide referendum in which the overwhelming majority of citizens expressed themselves in favor of the estabishment of their own television. At the moment the studio is funded by resources allocated for this purpose by the city's enterprises.

So far the broadcating time of its own programs is short, about an hour and a half per day. It is devoted to local news and current affairs programs. In time it is planned to extend air time and to exchange programs with other similar studios.

Western Republics

Belorussia Signs Agreement on Union Cooperation

LD2208102290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Belorussia has signed the first inter-governmental agreement on developing cooperation with the republics under the transition to a regulated market economy. Of course, this is just the beginning of the path toward genuine sovereignty for the republic. The Belorussian Supreme Soviet has adopted a declaration on state sovereignty. The recently formed Council of Ministers of the republic is adding real content to it through specific deeds. Here is a reportage by our correspondent [P. Makritskiy] from the Council of Ministers'

[Makritskiy] Inter-governmental agreements on cooperation and the reciprocal supply of products have already been concluded with Moldova, the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Estonia, and Turkmenistan. Now Belorussia is conducting talks on signing similar acts with Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. Let us stress that this is the first time this has been undertaken. This is particularly important now that negative tendencies have become obvious in the Belorussian economy, which previously functioned in a stable manner.

[Begin recording; N.N.Kostikov, identified as deputy chairman of Belorussian Council of Ministers] Today, our republic manufactures products, and of course, we are in a fairly difficult situation with regard to the provision of raw materials. Therefore, the inter-regional principle of concluding contracts envisages the stability of the republic's work. Inter-regional contracts guarantee us supplies of raw materials, and guarantee that our side will insure a 100-percent supply of contracted products. This is a basis for the development of the economy, for obtaining a profit, and for resolving the matter of consumer goods and technical products today.

On the basis of these solutions, the development today of the machine-building industry will give us the prospect of developing the republic as a whole. On this basis, we are concluding both inter-regional contracts and contracts for products which are controlled by the Union state order. These products are controlled by the state order, we know them. They include such products as cement, metal, and timber. So our contracts will be concluded both directly with the territories of different republics and with the Union. [end recording] [Video shows sitting of Council of Ministers and interview with Kostikov]

Belorussian Districts Conduct Repeat Elections

90UN2615C Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 28 Jul 90 p 1

[Report under the heading: "In the Central Commission for Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies: On Conducting Repeat Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies in a Number of Electoral Districts"]

[Text] When repeat elections were conducted, the elections in 18 electoral districts were considered invalid inasmuch as less then half of the voters registered on the lists took part in them. As a result, on the basis of Article 57 of the Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Law "On Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies," the Central Commission for Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies decrees:

1. To charge the district electoral commissions of the following electoral districts with conducting repeat elections of Belorussian SSR people's deputies on 30 September 1990: Mayakovskiy No. 2, Serebryanskiy No. 3, Grushevskiy No. 14, Golubevskiy No. 16, Aeroflotskiy No. 20, Akademicheskiy No. 27, Volgogradskiy No. 28, Kalinovskiy No. 29, Gorkovskiy No. 37, and Lunacharskiy No. 38 of the city of Minsk; Brestskiy-Vostochnyy No. 104 of Brest Oblast; Vitebskiy-Pervomayskiy No. 184 of Vitebsk Oblast; Gomelskiy-Krasnooktyabrskiy No. 188 and Gomelskiy-Oktyabrskiy No. 195 of Gomel Oblast; Grodnenskiy-Gorkovskiy No. 238 of Grodno Oblast; and Mogilevskiy-Leninskiy No. 273, Mogilevskiy-Altayskiy No. 280, and Osipovichskiy-Gorodskiy No. 304 of Mogilev Oblast.

2. To ensure that nomination of candidates for Belorussian SSR people's deputy for the repeat elections takes place 16-25 August and registration of candidates for deputy takes place 25-30 August 1990. Other pre-election events will take place according to the procedure and timetable stipulated by the Law "On Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies."

Voting takes place at those same electoral precincts according to the lists of voters composed for general elections and refined at the time of the repeat elections.

Citizens of the Belorussian SSR who have reached 18 years of age by or on the day of the elections and who reside permanently on the territory of a given electoral district, as well as those who have moved there for permanent residence are included on the lists of voters for the repeat elections. The basis for removing voters from the list of voters during the period between general and repeat elections is: death; moving to another permanent residence; conscription into the Soviet Army with service outside the previous residence; confinement to prison by court sentence or election of preventive punishment in the form of arrest according to procedure established by criminal procedural legislation; departure on a prolonged trip. In other instances the precinct electoral commission may remove voters from the list if it is informed in advance by a written statement that a voter will be away from the voting area on election day as a result of compelling reasons.

[Signed] M. Lagir, chairman of the Central Commission for Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies; I. Likhach, secretary of the Central Commission for Elections of Belorussian SSR People's Deputies

Belorussia Forms Constitutional Commission

90UN2615A Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 28 Jul 90 p 1

[Decree of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet: "On the Election of a Constitutional Commission"]

[Text] In accordance with Article 109 of the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. To elect a constitutional commission consisting of 74 people (the membership of the commission is attached).

2. For the constitutional commission to draw up a draft Belorussian SSR Constitution (Basic Law) and publish it in 1991 for public discussion.

3. At the completion of public discussion of the draft Belorussian SSR Constitution (Basic Law), to introduce it for examination at a session of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet.

[Signed] N. Dementey, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet
[Dated] Minsk, 20 July 1990

Moldavian Law on Constitutional Amendments

90UN2629G Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDOVA in Russian 2 Aug 90 p 3

["Law of the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic on Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic"]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic resolves:

I. To introduce the following amendments and additions into the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic:

1. In Point 11 of Part Two of Article 97, following the words "of the Moldova SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Court and Moldova SSR people's judges," add the words "appointment of the Moldova SSR prosecutor and confirmation of the Moldova SSR Procuracy Collegium."

2. In Point 4 of Part One of Article 107, following the words "of the chairman of the Moldova SSR Supreme Court," add the words "of the Moldova SSR prosecutor."

3. In Part Two of Article 110, following the words "of the Moldova SSR Supreme Court," add the words "of the Moldova SSR Procuracy."

4. In Article 163, replace the words "by the USSR prosecutor general and subordinate to him the Moldova SSR prosecutor and lower-level prosecutors" with "by the Moldova SSR prosecutor and subordinate to him lower-level prosecutors."

5. Change Article 164 to read as follows:

"Article 164. The Moldova SSR prosecutor is appointed by the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet at the recommendation of the chairman of the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet.

The Moldova SSR prosecutor is responsible to the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet and is accountable before it.

Rayon and city prosecutors are appointed by the Moldova SSR prosecutor, and are responsible and accountable to him."

6. In Article 166, replace the words "being subordinate only to the USSR prosecutor general" with "being subordinate only to the Moldova SSR prosecutor."

II. To implement this law from the day of its adoption.

[Signed] **M. Snegur, chairman of the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet**
[Dated] City of Kishinev, 26 July 1990

Moldavia Issues Ukase on Armed Group Ban

90UN2621A Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDOVA in Russian 3 Aug 90 p 1

["Ukase of the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the USSR Presidential Ukase 'On Prohibiting the Creation of Armed Formations Not Stipulated by USSR Legislation and Confiscating Illegally Maintained Weapons'"]

[Text] On the basis of Article 74 of the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Moldova SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

To authorize the validity on the territory of the Moldova SSR of the 25 July 1990 USSR presidential ukase "On Prohibiting the Creation of Armed Formations Not Stipulated by USSR Legislation and Confiscating Illegally Maintained Weapons" until the development and adoption of a mechanism for approval (ratification) by the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet of USSR laws and other legal acts of the organs of state power and administration of the USSR, as well as USSR presidential ukases.

[Signed] M. Snegur, chairman of the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet
[Dated] Kishinev, 31 July 1990

Moldovia Issues Ukase on Press, Mass Media

90UN2621B Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDOVA in Russian 3 Aug 90 p 1

["Ukase of the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the USSR Law 'On the Press and Other Mass Media'"]

[Text] On the basis of Article 74 of the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Moldova SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

To authorize the validity on the territory of the Moldova SSR of the 12 June 1990 USSR Law "On the Press and Other Mass Media" until the development and adoption of a mechanism for approval (ratification) by the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet of USSR laws and other legal acts of the organs of state power and administration of the USSR, as well as USSR presidential ukases, and until the adoption of a Moldova SSR law on the press and other mass media.

[Signed] M. Snegur, chairman of the Moldova SSR Supreme Soviet
[Dated] Kishinev, 31 July 1990

Ukrainian Delegates Discuss Union Treaty

PM2108124590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Kremlin Consultations Continue"]

[Text] Consultations between USSR and Union republic working groups on the concepts for new Union relations are continuing in Moscow. Plenipotentiary representatives of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium set out their views at a "roundtable" 13 August in the Grand Kremlin Palace Hall of Facets.

Welcoming the Ukrainian emissaries, R.N. Nishanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, stressed that the USSR Supreme Soviet has a high opinion of the declarations of state sovereignty adopted in a number of republics. They are important actions to strengthen their autonomy. The declarations, along with other factors, may act as the basis for the new Union treaty.

"However, we are all well aware that we are not preparing a new treaty from scratch," R.N. Nishanov said. "It would probably be difficult to be so clever as to try to begin a new phase in our Union in the present complex situation with destruction and total rejection."

V.B. Grinev, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet, stressed that the Union treaty must not just be a renewal of the 1922 treaty, but is rather designed to be a fundamentally new document on the creation of a union of sovereign states with powers delegated upward and a differentiated approach to the republics. This treaty must elaborate two important components—the economic (union market) and political (the union's state rights) components.

V.P. Fokin, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Economy Committee, along with A.P. Kotsyuba and V.M. Pilipchuk, chairmen of Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet commissions, pointed out in their proposals regarding the Union treaty that they are proceeding on the basis of the provisions of the Declaration of Ukrainian State Sovereignty.

N.N. Gritsenko, V.G. Kucherenko, and Yu.K. Sharipov, members of the USSR Supreme Soviet working group, V.Kh. Doguzhiyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and V.N. Kudryavtsev, USSR people's deputy and vice president of the USSR

Academy of Sciences, voiced the opinion that sovereign republics must join the renewed union with a view to broadening and strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral political, economic, and cultural ties. In the international context this union can be both an economically strong and a politically stable formation.

Consultations with Union republic representatives will continue.

Baklanov Discusses Conversion During Visit

PM2108130790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Aug 90 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Conversion and Social Protection"]

[Text] O.D. Baklanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has visited Dnepropetrovsk Oblast. Questions of the fulfillment of the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress were discussed during meetings and discussions at the shop party organizations of one of the largest defense complex enterprises—the "Yuzhnoye" Science and Production Association.

Together with the leaders of the USSR Defense Ministry and defense sectors the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee inquired about the conversion of defense production facilities and the boosting of consumer goods output. Attention focused on the problems of social protection for workers in the conditions of falling defense orders and exacerbated employment problems.

The stepping up of the work of party organizations, the boosting of their role in protecting people's interests, and the ensuring of their social protection under the conditions of the conversion of defense production facilities were discussed. The Central Committee secretary stressed that the party will never avoid problems whose resolution directly affects people's prosperity.

At the party aktiv meeting O.D. Baklanov talked about the work of the 28th CPSU Congress and answered questions.

PRAVDA Correspondent 'Persecuted' in Lvov

PM1908191090 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

[Feature incorporating Lvov Oblast Soviet Presidium decision and comments by USSR Deputy General Prosecutor V. Andreyev and Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman L. Kravchuk, under the rubric "But What About Democracy?": "PRAVDA Correspondent Persecuted"—first two paragraphs are an editorial introduction]

[Text] It was already known that the new leaders of the oblast soviet in Lvov study and interpret every PRAVDA article in a biased manner. And yet the reaction to the article "What Kind of Ukraine Do They Want?" (4 August 1990) was amazing. Instead of a well-reasoned argument the mass media under the influence of the local soviet began persecuting the correspondent (at the "instigation" of V. Chernovil, chairman of the oblast soviet).

Speaking on television, V. Chernovil scornfully brushed aside a mention of the PRAVDA article: It is not worth even taking any notice of it, he said. And when there was talk of "punishing" the correspondent, the chairman of the oblast soviet remarked: We will not be so cruel, we will not "expel" him from the oblast. However, just a few days later the position changed abruptly, as evidenced by the document below, which was published yesterday in the Lvov Oblast Soviet's newspaper ZA VILNU UKRAINU.

Decision of Lvov Oblast Soviet Presidium on the PRAVDA Correspondents' Center

In connection with the fact that PRAVDA is conducting a slander campaign against organs of soviet power in Lvov Oblast and systematically misinforms the Union reader about events in the Western Ukraine, the oblast soviet presidium has decided:

1. To require PRAVDA to move its correspondents' center from Lvov to another oblast in the region.

2. Lvov City Soviet Executive Committee is to review the terms of the lease contract on the organization of the PRAVDA correspondents' center in Lvov before 1 September 1990.

3. The permanent deputies' commission on questions of information and the study of public opinion is to draw up regulations for accrediting correspondents and providing premises for correspondents' centers.

4. The prosecutor's office is to be asked to institute proceedings against PRAVDA's own correspondent V. Drozd under Article 66 of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Criminal Code for fanning interethnic enmity and under Article 125 of the Ukrainian SSR Criminal Code for slander.

[Signed] V.M. Chernovil, chairman of the oblast soviet

USSR Deputy General Prosecutor V. Andreyev Comments

"I am profoundly convinced," Vladimir Ivanovich said, "that the oblast soviet presidium adopted an illegal decision running counter not only to the USSR Constitution and current legislation but also simply to common sense. This decision marks a return to Stalinist lawlessness. Without investigation or trial the oblast soviet presidium in effect found your correspondent guilty of fanning interethnic enmity and of slander."

[PRAVDA] And yet the final point of the decision provides for a request to the prosecutor's office to institute proceedings against V. Drozd....

[Andreyev] Precisely: First they punished the man, essentially declaring him persona non grata in the oblast, and then they ask the prosecutor's office to provide legal grounds for this scandalous lawlessness. In any rule-of-law state, in any civilized country, people do things the other way round. Our laws also demand the same thing, but the members of Lvov Oblast Soviet Presidium are evidently poorly acquainted with them.

[PRAVDA] How does this decision conform to the Law on the Press and the Mass Media, which came into effect 1 August this year?

[Andreyev] It does not conform at all. For the Law on the Press clearly defines the legal mechanism of journalists' liability. And if someone considers that a correspondent is fanning interethnic enmity and disseminating slander, he must turn to the court. And then the court, and the court alone, will establish the newspaper man's guilt or innocence.

The decision of Lvov Oblast Soviet Presidium is essentially a gag on glasnost and a warning to all who want to have an opinion different from that of the presidium's members. This marks the beginning of a most dreadful dictatorship, in whose mill destinies and lives are broken.

[PRAVDA] So the decision is illegal. Will the prosecutor's office protest against it?

[Andreyev] Unfortunately not: The prosecutor's office does not have the right to supervise the legality of the decisions of a soviet at any level. Only a higher soviet can countermand the decision.

L. Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, Comments

I regard the actions of Lvov Oblast Soviet Presidium, which you have now reported to me, as particularly undemocratic and aimed at hindering glasnost and preventing the correspondent from expressing his opinion in the newspaper's pages. I know Drozd as a principled and responsible journalist. In my view, he gives objective coverage of the essence of the complex events taking place in the Western Ukraine. Of course, some people might not like this, and it might even annoy some people, but emotions are not the best counsel when resolving such serious questions. But in Lvov, to all appearances, it is emotions that certain leaders have followed. To go to the length of expelling the correspondent from the oblast merely because he displeased the local chiefs.... Honestly, in my opinion such a thing did not happen often even during the worst times.

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium will very carefully investigate everything that happened in Lvov. And I can assure you that we will find the appropriate way to respond to any action that runs counter to the law.

From the Editorial Office

Certain people's deputies inside and outside Lvov are not averse to describing the events there as a "laboratory of democracy," and they call Lvov none other than an "island of freedom." They probably have in mind the campaign of intolerance toward communists and the dismantling of the monument and bust of V.I. Lenin. And now it is the PRAVDA correspondent's turn. It would be interesting to know to which areas the Lvov "democrats" intend to extend their methods developed in the "laboratory" of the "island of freedom."

Despite pressure and persecution, Viktor Andreyevich Drozd is continuing to work. We publish his reports on page 2.

Donetsk Strike Committee Publishes Own Newspaper

*PM2108132790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Aug 90 Second Edition p 4*

[Unattributed report: "New Newspaper"]

[Text] The Donetsk City Strike Committee will soon be able to address its fellow-countrymen in its own 32-page newspaper NOVOSTI I SOBYTIYA [NEWS AND EVENTS].

Caucasus

Armenian Supreme Soviet Resumes Discussions

Border Situation Viewed

*NC2108141190 Yerevan International Service
in Armenian 1800 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] After a two-day recess, the Armenian Supreme Soviet resumed its deliberations today. The parliament debated the draft declaration on republic's political status which is the most important question facing the republic. [passage omitted]

The session was briefed on the incidents which have been taking place in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon since last night. The Azerbaijanis have attacked Armenian villages and are holding a hostage. The Armenian armed groups retaliated with heavy fire. Soviet troops became involved in the incident. The situation remains complex in the region.

Procuracy's Request Rejected

*NC2108141390 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug (ARMENPRES)—As has already been reported, the USSR Procuracy sent a letter to the Armenian Supreme Soviet asking that it consent to the bringing of criminal charges against Arkadiy Manucharov, people's deputy of the Armenian Soviet Socialist

Republic [SSR]. A parliamentary commission was set up to study the relevant material and submit a draft resolution to the Supreme Soviet.

The 16 August session of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet discussed this matter. The commission presented a draft resolution based on its findings and this resolution was endorsed by the Supreme Soviet. Under the resolution, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet regards the bringing of criminal charges against A. Manucharov as a politically motivated act and refuses to consent to the filing of criminal charges against him by the USSR Procuracy.

Independence Issue Debated

LD2108211890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Leonid Lazarevich and Karyun Khumaryan, our special correspondents, will tell us about the situation in Armenia.

[Lazarevich] As we are broadcasting, the article-by-article discussion of a declaration on independent statehood for Armenia is taking place in the republican Supreme Soviet. Almost all the document has been adopted already. It proclaims the beginning of the process of reconstructing Armenia's independent statehood. The name Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] is being changed to the Republic of Armenia, and it is being declared the sovereign state. Only the constitution and the laws of this republic will operate on its territory. Its own armed forces, internal troops, and state security bodies are being formed under the Supreme Soviet in order to provide its security. At this very moment, the discussion of this document is approaching its completion, its very last points are being discussed; well, we suppose that the document itself will be adopted completely, either very late tonight or early tomorrow morning.

[Khumaryan] Today's newspapers publish information on the plenum of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee which took place the other day. The plenum examined a social and political issue, and tasks for the party organization. Movsisyan, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, delivered a report on this issue. In order to change a decision previously adopted, the plenum decided to convene the 29th Congress of the Armenian Communist Party on 25 September 1990. According to previous data, it was to take place at the end of November of this year.

The plenum examined some organizational questions as well. Kuznetsov, Markaryants, and Asatryan were released from their duties as members of the Bureau of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee in connection with their transfer to new jobs. The plenum also released Galoyan and Dilanyan from their duties as secretaries of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and members of the Bureau of the Central Committee at their own request in connection with their transfer to new jobs. Thanks was expressed to them for their work in the Central Committee. The plenum also released Avakyan and Akopyan from their duties as candidate members of the Bureau of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee in connection with their transfer to other jobs and elected Stepan Karapetovich Pogosyan, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Yerevan City Committee of the Armenian Communist Party, to the post of secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and member of the Bureau of the Central Committee.

[Lazarevich] I should say that it was the first plenum in which the Armenian Communist Party was no longer the ruling party at the republic's Supreme Soviet. One more thing. You know that everyone's attention is nowadays drawn to the Noyemberyanskiy Rayon, where abrupt worsening of situation took place. You know that embittered exchanges of fire took place there. Abatement of tension is being observed today. And although shots were still heard today, negotiations have taken place, and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] representatives of the two republics—Azerbaijan and Armenia—have decided to provide concerted supervision of this area.

Armenian Communist Party Holds Plenum 18 Aug

Gorkom Head Relieved

PM1708142790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 90 Second Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent A. Sarkisyan: "Renewal Is the Course"]

[Text] Yerevan—The activity of the Armenian Communist Party, which is now out of power for the first time, is being followed by some with interest, in the hope that it will be radically renewed; by others—with malicious delight as they predict the party's impending demise; by still others—with curiosity as to its future capabilities. Although the Armenian Supreme Soviet chairman's recent election defeat brought confusion to communist ranks, a considerable proportion of them are, however, in fighting mood. Many party organizations are holding meetings and plenums which, admittedly too late, are discussing the current situation within the party and suggesting radical changes in the status, structure, and organizational forms and methods of work.

For instance, a raykom [rayon party committee] plenum in the rayon named for the 26 commissars adopted an appeal to the republic's communists to convene an extraordinary emergency Armenian Communist Party congress. This was mentioned today at a Yerevan Party Gorkom [city party committee] plenum. The plenum relieved G.Ye. Asatryan of his duties as gorkom first secretary and elected to this post S.K. Pogosyan, chairman of the republic's State Committee for the Press and a communist of 30 years' standing.

The Yerevan communists' new leader pointed out that he thinks that the Communist Party leadership has displayed unprincipledness in failing to react to brazen attacks on the party.

A decision was adopted demanding that an Armenian Communist Party Central Committee plenum be held within the next few days to discuss communists' proposals regarding the convocation of a congress, the dismissal of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, and the adoption of a new program and statute for the independent Armenian Communist Party. Time will soon tell how politically well-regulated and apposite the communists' decisions are.

V.M. Movsisyan, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Armenian Central Committee Communist Party, took part in the work of the Yerevan Party Gorkom plenum.

Organizational Changes Made

NC2108150690 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0500 GMT 21 Aug 90

[From the review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN]

[Text] The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee plenum took place on 18 August. The paper has published a front-page report on the plenum.

The plenum examined the social and political situation that has arisen in the republic and the responsibilities facing the party organizations. Vladimir Movsisyan, a member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, delivered a report on this issue.

An extensive exchange of views followed. The plenum then passed a resolution on the issue under examination. The resolution will be published in the press.

The plenum altered the date arranged earlier for the party congress and instead decided to convene the 29th congress of the Armenian Communist Party on 25 September in Yerevan.

The plenum examined organizational questions. It relieved (?Kuznetsov), Markaryants, and Asatryan of their membership of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau in connection with their transfer to other work. It relieved Galoyan and Dilanyan from their duties as secretaries of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and of membership in the Central Committee Politburo, granting their request for transfer to other work. It also relieved Gegamyan of membership of the Central Committee Bureau, acceding to their request for transfer to other work. The plenum relieved Avakyan and Akobyan of their responsibilities as candidate members of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau in connection with their transfer to other work. It elected Stepan Pogosyan, a member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Yerevan City Party Committee, as secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and member of the Central Committee Bureau.

On its front page the paper publishes a biography of Stepan Pogosyan. On the same page the paper also carries a statement issued by the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, which specifically says:

Our republic is going through grave and complex times. The attention of the entire Armenian people is focused on the work of the republic's Supreme Soviet. The future gathering of the Armenian people is taking place around the ideas of national revival and the formation and development of the independent and sovereign state of the Armenians. New forces are emerging on the front line of political life. Though slow, the process of the formation of the structures of the parliament is going ahead.

The issue of the independence of Armenia is one of the most important problems troubling the Armenian people. While endorsing the idea of independence we think at the same time that for the foreseeable future an independent and sovereign Armenia should voluntarily take its place in a renewed union structure as a sovereign state. This is dictated by the imperative necessity to ensure the security of our people and by concern for the normal economic development of the republic.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee plenum resolutely rejects the attacks and unfounded accusations leveled against the Communist Party and the communists. These hinder the process of national unity, social harmony, and democratization of public life. The Armenian Coomunist Party Central Committee hopes that the future work of the Supreme Soviet will be on a higher plane, more productive, and detached from narrow group considerations; this would preclude the discarding of wise and realistic decisions serving the fundamental interests of the Armenian people.

Armenian Afghan Veterans Establish Organization

NC2008144390 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 18 Aug 90

[From the republican press review]

[Text] Yet another public organization was officially registered recently: The Republican Society of Participants in the Afghan War [Afghanakan Paterazmi Masnatkitsneri Hanrapetakan Inkerutyn]. Armen Shahbazyan is its president.

Some 3,500 persons from Armenia served in Afghanistan, not counting the number of Armenians from Azerbaijan. Eighty-six of them never returned from that war. There are as many (?disabled).

Armen Shahbazyan told reporters: We cannot remain indifferent to what is happening in Armenia. Our boys are actively participating in the self-defense movement. We have plans to set up a military camp where we will share the experience we gained in Afghanistan with the youths. We have close relations with the Armenian Pannational Movement. However, our cooperation is strictly confined to self-defense issues. Otherwise, we are not dependent on it or on any other organization ideologically or politically. There is an acute need for our organization in today's Armenia. I will tell you why: As is known, as a result of the mass seizure of arms certain amounts of arms and military equipment fell into the hands of criminal elements. Those bandit groups, dressed in the attire of guerrillas, have not been content to use their arms just once. That fact forced us, the Afghan veterans, to speed up the formation of armed detachments and draw up a definitive plan of struggle against the criminal elements throughout the republic's territory.

Armenian Anti-Genocide Group Lists Goals

90US1247A Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 2 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by K. Vlasenko: "Against Genocide"]

[Text] **The Armenian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] has registered the Union of Veterans of War and Labor To Combat Genocide.**

We asked Samvel Pogosyan, chairman of the union's initiative committee, to describe the aims and tasks of the union.

The Union of Veterans is a voluntary public organization of USSR citizens and operates in accordance with Article 51 of the Constitution, considers itself a legal entity, and has its own bank account and corresponding seal, stamp, and emblem. We operate within the framework of the Armenian SSR Constitution and all international treaties concerning human rights.

The legitimate demand for the creation of conditions of the security of the Armenian people and their participation in the process of perestroyka brought about the need for the creation of this union. Our aim is to strive to ensure that the Armenian SSR becomes a member of the United Nations with the status of sovereign state. The struggle against antiperestroyka forces will produce no results unless, together with the mobilization of our own forces, international authorities and other state and public organizations are also involved in the solution of most important questions for the Armenian people.

We wish to raise for discussion by the United Nations the matters which interest us, and to have the Soviet Union finally, after 40 years of disregard, comply with the requirements of Article 5 of the Geneva international convention of 9 December 1948, "Prevention of and Punishment for the Crime of Genocide." It is essential immediately to introduce in criminal legislation special articles providing for criminal liability for persons guilty of perpetrating genocide.

In accordance with Articles 6 and 9 of the abovementioned convention, just as Hitler's executioners were convicted at the Nuremberg trials, it is essential to convict by an international court of law the organizers and ideologues of the genocide of Armenians in the NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast] and Nakhichevan and in all parts of Azerbaijan.

We need to seek an end to the Sumgait buffoonery and consider invalid all decisions on this matter passed by Soviet courts of law and submit the Sumgait genocide as a single case for examination by an international court of law.

We deem it necessary to present the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet decision of 1 December 1989 on the reunification of the NKAO and Armenia to the United Nations for its discussion and approval in accordance with the requirements of international laws; to ask the United Nations to form under its aegis a special commission to study the position of the Armenian people in the USSR and stabilize their security; to seek UN recognition of the genocide of Armenians of 1915.

For the accomplishment of the said aims and tasks it is essential that the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet issue a decree which unites interested organizations for the purpose of creating a center for gathering and interpreting criminal cases pertaining to instances of genocide perpetrated in the NKAO, Nakhichevan, and cities and localities of Azerbaijan.

We will terminate our activity when the abovementioned convention of 1948 is complied with unswervingly by the Soviet state.

The Union of Veterans has a current account in the Armenian Republic Bank of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Relations numbered 70000011. A foreign currency account will be opened here shortly also.

Our address is the Writers House, 3 Bagramyan Avenue, Yerevan 19. Tel: 56-21-90.

Findings Reported From Probe of Baku Massacre

PM1708113890 London MOSCOW NEWS in English No 11, 10-16 Aug 90 pp 8-9

[Article by Reserve Captains A. Yevstigneyev and G. Melko and Reserve Lieutenant Colonel B. Murasov: "Anatomy of a Massacre. Probe Team's Damning Report on the Tragic Events That Rocked the City of Baku Calls for the Prosection of USSR's Defence Minister Yazov"]

[Text] **"This Was a Punitive Operation, a Slaughter of Innocent People"**

A Soviet soldiers' rights group spent ten days last month investigating the Baku incidents. The group, known as Shchit, studied documents and ballistic reports, watched 18 video cassettes, questioned officials, military personnel and civilians in Baku and inspected the scene.

An abridgement of its report is published here.

Bloody pogroms against Armenians occurred in Baku on January 13-15. The victims were innocent men, women and old people. A mass evacuation of Armenian families began. The evacuation continued until a state of emergency was imposed. In the days that followed attacks on Armenians became fewer, and by January 18-19 none were reported.

At the height of the violence, meither the Interior Ministry troops, nor the Azerbaijan KGB, did anything to stop the murders, violence, robberies and outrages. Explanations for the inaction of the Interior Ministry troops are contradictory. The Baku commandant, Lt-Gen Dubinyak, claims they were not given any orders, while the commander of the Interior Ministry troops, Shatalin, maintains that "no one asked us for help."

The report prepared by the USSR Soviet of the Nationalities' Committee for National Policy and Ethnic Relations says that the TV and Radio Centre was put out of commission by the Popular Front. This information was repeated by the media. The facts, however, paint a different picture.

The TV and Radio Centre was guarded by 160 cadets of the Baku Military School. Four armed men in military-style clothing arrived at the centre at 7pm on January 19. The guards obeyed them implicitly. The shift chief of the power generating unit, I. Guseinov, and shift electrician V. Romanov, told the men how the power supply could be disrupted and added that there were no back-up diesel generators. The power generating unit was blown up at 7.25 pm. There was no reaction from those guarding the centre. The blast was reported to the Baku Internal Affairs Department at 7.30 pm. But the militia team that arrived at the centre was not allowed in by the guards. We concluded that the power generating unit of the TV and Radio Centre had been blown up by a special team of the Soviet Army or the USSR KGB.

Warning people that military force is about to be used is very important: People should have been given enough time to decide what they are going to do and get home. The number of victims would have been fewer. Item I, Article 4 of the 1966 International Agreement on Civil And Political Rights makes it incumbent on officials to give advanced warning of states of emergency.

The people of Baku first heard about the state of emergency from City Commandant Dubinyak's radio address and from leaflets dropped from helicopters at 5.30 am on January 20 when the city was already occupied by troops and blood was being shed.

Civilian casualties were lowest in areas where units of the Baku garrison, the Caspian fleet and the Baku Military School were deployed. The situation was different where reservists and army units were entering the city for the first time. They were told that the army's job was to defend the Russians being brutally killed by local people, that the houses, roofs and apartments were teeming with gunmen of the Popular Front who were ready to shoot any units entering the city. These men were afraid to die and expected violent resistance. Thus they were psychologically prepared to use violence.

On the night of January 20, the roads leading to Baku and areas where unit of the Baku garrison were deployed by heavy trucked and concrete slabs and were picketed. There is no evidence that the pickets carried weapons.

Troops entered Baku at midnight on January 20. The tanks and armoured personnel carriers employed were unmarked; other troops desembarked from naval ships.

The troops fired automatic weapons at radom and in all directions, accounting for many civilian casualties: 121 people died, more than 700 were wounded, and 12 were reported missing. Especially violent were the actions of those troops (reservists) converging on the city from the airport. The troops took full control of the city at 6 am. Sporadic shooting continued in various parts of the city on January 20-24. Shooting was especially heavy around the Salyanskiye barracks.

While there is no documentary proof that the pickets carried weapons, troops were shot at when they started to remove the barricades. This provoked the troops into returning fire. The troops lost 21 men and 90 were wounded. If the pickets had been armed the advancing troops would have lost many more men in street fighting. Numerous witnesses in various parts of the city claim they saw people in unmarked cars shooting. It was always hit and run. it has not been established who was in those cars.

According to the report by unit commander Col. Antonov, armouired vehicles and personnel leaving the gate of the Salyanskiye barracks on the night of January 19 met with heavy automatic fire, and vigilante snipers were shooting from the windows and roofs of nearby buildings. The troops returned the fire. But, according to men who took part in removing the barricades around the barracks and residents of nearby buildings, the barricades outside the barracks gates were removed by 23.30 am. Heavy crossfire continued until 2 am. Then troops were seen in the entrances of building No. 1 and other buildings in the Vostok settlement. Residents gathered on the ground floor saw troops leaving the building and firing long bursts along the street without even taking aim.

At 1 pm heavy fire was directed at the settlement's housing (especially houses number 1 and 333) from the direction of the Salyanskiye barracks. At 4pm the third floor of apartment building No. 1 was hit by rockets fired from the direction of the Salyanskiye barracks. Two apartments were completely destroyed and a blaze stated. The residents asked the troops to go up on the roof to see who was firing. Fierce exchanges occurred on January 21-24.

Having analysed the available data, military experts have established the following:

Two soliders were killed in the first hours of the exchange of automatic fire and sniper shooting, which was watched by many people. One soldier was killed near the north gate, the other was killed at the south gate. If there really had been heave fire, the number of casualites would have been much highter.

The walls of buildings No. 1 and 333 and the remaining windows bear the traces of dozens of bullets, with some apartments completely destroyed. Military experts have found no traces of bullets on the walls of the Salyanskiya barracks.

The experts have concluded that vigilante snipers did not open heavy automoatic fire from the residentional area of the settlement in the early hours of January 20. The firing from the residential area of the settlement on January 21-24 involved blank ammunitition. The commanding officers needed this to create the impression of a long and violent resistance by extremists so as to justify the numerous civilian casualities.

During the state of ermegency in Baku the following things were observed:

—People were shot at point blank range with especial cruelty. Passengers, including children, traveling on a bus were shot at.

— Tanks and armoured vehicles deliberately collided with cars, killing passageners.

Hospitals and ambulances were shot at. Tanks fired at ambulances and Doctor A. Markhevka was killed.

—Wounded people were killed. Bullets with a displaced centre of gravity were used in Kalashnikov 5.45 calibre automatics. When they hit the body, these bullets change course. A bullet like this does not simply wound a person, it greatly adds to his suffering and makes death inevitable.

—Corpses were robbed and there were robberies of apartments and individuals, and the humilition of those held captive.

—Soviet troops were used in Baku against their own people. This puntive operation was a pre-planned massacre of innocent people, using military means banned by international law. The Soviet Defense Minister, who supervised the operation, committed a military crime covered by Article 6 of the International Military Tribunal, and the article in the Criminal Code of the Azerbaijan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] covering crimes against the person (Chapter Three).

As for other members of the armed forces who committed military crimes, they should also be taken to court.

The USSR Ministry of Defence should pay damages to the city's residents, its institutions and organizations. It should also pay compensation and allowances to the families of those killed and cover the hospital and rehabilitary expenses of the wounded and crippled.

Further on Armenia-Azerbaijan Border Conflict

Special Units 'Fortify' Border

PM2108130390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[INTERFAX-attributed report: "Border Fortified"]

[Text] A conference at the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee discussed questions of further normalizing the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] and fortifying the border with Armenia. It appears from information provided by Major General Safonov, commandant of the NKAO special area and adjoining areas of the Azerbaijan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], at the conference that 81 special operations were carried out in the first six months of this year in 43 population centers in Nagorno-Karabakh. During these operations 350 kg of explosives were confiscated along with more than 1,200 weapons, tens of thousands of munitions, 45 radio sets, and 180 hail guns and launchers. According to Safonov, the situation in the NKAO is still complex. There has been no end to attacks on Azerbaijani population centers, sabotage, and provocations against servicemen. Small armed groups infiltrating the oblast's territory from Armenia are still destabilizing the situation. Additional army, internal troop, and militia subunits are being sent to areas of Azerbaijan bordering on Armenia in order to fortify the borders with Armenia and neutralize Armenian guerrillas. A special purpose Azerbaijani MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] detachment has been set up and field fortifications are being reinforced on the republic's border.

Ter-Petrosyan Describes Events

LD2108194990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] One more TASS report:

The situation in the Transcaucasus remains extremely complicated. In the course of 20 August, firing continued in Kazakh Rayon in Azerbaijan from the direction of Noyemberyanskiy Rayon in Armenia. Then combat started. There are fatalities.

At its morning session today the Armenian Supreme Soviet was forced to discuss the situation in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon, on which its chairman Ter-Petrosyan provided information. He described the events which took place as an adventure and a provocation, as a result of which five people were killed and 25 injured. The Azerbaijan side has cut off the Kazakh-Yerevan gas pipeline and blocked the railway. The deputies demanded that urgent measures be taken to normalize the situation. The questions were raised of suspending the work of parliament, and of the issue responsibility for the actions of representatives of armed groupings who are disregarding parliament's decisions. Only reports that armed sorties and attempts to capture weapons are already being rebuffed—by the law enforcement bodies in some cases—brought the deputies back to the agenda, to the adoption of the declaration on independence. The debates were heated on each point of the draft. Each article of the declaration was subjected to a critical interpretation. Voting on the declaration has not yet been completed.

Mutalibov's Appeal Viewed

PM2108214990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Aug 90 First Edition p 2

[AZERINFORM-TASS report: "Azerbaijan President's Appeal"]

[Text] Baku, 21 Aug—The text of the appeal by Azerbaijan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] President A.N. Mutalibov to the supreme soviets of the Union republics was broadcast today on republic television and radio. The appeal was dictated by the emergency situation that has developed around the Azerbaijan SSR and the serious threat posed to the republic's security and integrity.

The Azerbaijan public, the appeal says, pinned their hopes for peace and stability on the USSR president's decree "On Banning the Creation of Armed Formations Not Envisaged by USSR Legislation and the Confiscation of Unlawfully Held Weapons," assuming that the presidential decision would be backed up by exhaustive practical measures. This, unfortunately, did not ensue.

This very important political act has been essentially wrecked, the president of the republic noted. Relying on the good sense of those who have time and again unambiguously stated their unwillingness to surrender their weapons can scarcely serve to justify what is happening. Tardiness in such an uncompromising question is regarded by many as a climb-down and the consequence of pressure exerted on the president by separatist and extremist forces.

The failure to bring real disarmament levers into operation is becoming a political cause of instability in the region and essentially means that the Union is effectively refusing to discharge its constitutional obligations to a member of the federation, namely, Azerbaijan.

Too much—the security and the very life of the Azerbaijan people—is at stake, Mutalibov stresses. The whole course of events demands finally the adoption of real political, legal, and other sanctions against the Armenian Republic within the powers vested in the USSR president and the country's government, as happens when the USSR Constitution is violated and the territorial integrity of the Soviet Federation is jeopardized.

Given the prevailing conditions, the Azerbaijan SSR will be compelled to take such actions as will ensure the republic's sovereignty and security, to the extent of drawing the world public's attention to it.

Recalling that the Azerbaijan people have always linked their future with the historically formed Soviet Federation, the president states that today the Azerbaijan people have a right to seek new ways to ensure their secure and—most importantly—guaranteed existence.

The decision to appeal directly to the supreme soviets of the Union republics was prompted by Azerbaijan's desire to inform the Soviet peoples about the truth of the conflict.

Trains Halted in Azerbaijan

LD2108214990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1h530 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Today we have been reporting on the situation in Azerbaijan. Another report has just been received from that republic:

In connection with the complex situation which has taken shape in Kazakhskiy Rayon in Azerbaijan, the movement of trains to Armenia from the station of (Barkhudarly) has been halted. Engine drivers at the (Gyanzhenskiy) locomotive depot have refused to drive trains to Idzhevanskiy Rayon in Armenia, where serious danger threatens them. Inhabitants of surrounding villages, about 1,000 people, went to the permanent way and blocked the main line in the direction of Armenia. They are demanding the restoration of calm and safety, saying that otherwise they will not allow the movement of trains.

Armenian Attacks Continue

NC2208084190 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Ministry of Internal Affairs has disclosed that Armenian extremists Grigoryan, Agadzhanyan, Petrosyan, Bagdadaryan, Sarkisyan, Khachatryan, Arutunyan, and Mikhrabyan were captured by the militia workers and the military servicemen of the Internal Troops during an operation on 17 August in an area known as (?Piruz), which is close to the Surkh town in Askeranskiy Rayon. Automatic Kalashnikov rifles, (?handmade) weapons, carbines, small-caliber arms, four shotguns, [word indistinct] explosives, [word indistinct], and 650 cartridges of various caliber were seized from them. All of those who carried illegal arms have been imprisoned.

Armed Armenian groups fired various types of weapons at the towns of Kemerli, Yukhari Askipara, Ashagy Askipara, Baganis Ayrum, Barkhudarly, and Shykhly in Kazakhskiy Rayon on 19 and 20 August. The shooting came from the towns from the Noyemberyanskiy and Idzhevanskiy Rayons in the Armenian SSR. A commuter bus was hit and Chobanov, an employee of the Kazakhskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department and a militia [word indistinct], was killed. Passengers Veliyeva, Kahramanova, Veliyev, and Mamedov, a militia member of the Kazakhskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, were wounded. Two armed men were killed and a number of others were wounded when the employees of the Kazakhskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, who escorted the bus, returned fire

Aliyev, a militia lieutenant affiliated with the Gendzha Rayon Internal Affairs Department, was tragically killed during a clash on 20 August. Lieutenant [name indistinct] and his two deputies, [names indistinct], were wounded. The Armenian bandits shot at a military helicopter and damaged it, wounding the pilot Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Konstantinovich.

The militia employees and the members of the other city and rayon organs of the Kazakhskiy Rayon, the Internal Troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the units of the Soviet Armed Forces, which were sent to help, taught the bandits a lesson. Five armed Armenians were killed and more than 20 others were wounded during the clash.

Additional units of the Soviet Armed Forces and the USSR Internal Troops have been dispatched to Kazakhskiy Rayon.

The Azerbaijan SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs repeats that we (?do not wish) bloodshed. However, those who plot against Azerbaijan should know that we will give our lives in the struggle to defend our homeland. We are prepared to ward off any kind of extremist activity.

Militia Major's Body Found

LD2208100490 Moscow TASS in English 0950 GMT 22 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Borisov]

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—Gunshots can be heard in many areas of Azerbaijan and Armenia, as the situation in the two republics moves into crisis, according to this morning's Soviet Interior Ministry communique.

Several settlements in Azerbaijan's Kazakah district came under fire from the side of Armenia's Noyemberyanskiy district on Tuesday, a Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman told TASS.

As a result, a local resident was seriously injured and an investigator of the district Interior Ministry department sustained a gunshot wound.

Yukhariy-Yaydzhi and Yavush settlements in the Ilyichevsskiy district of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, which is part of Azerbaijan, came under fire from Khachik settlement in Armenia's Yekhegnadzorskiy district. The shooting ceased only when a troop detail returned fire.

The situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region has not changed in the past 24 hours. Eight people were detained there for violating the curfew.

Weapons were used in several areas of Armania on Tuesday. Two armed groups of militants clashed in the city of Dzhermuk. District Inspector Sacharyan, who tried to separate the warring groups, was injured by automatic gunfire.

On the same day, about 80 people assaulted the district Interior Ministry Department in Armenia's Tumanyanskiy District. Threatening to use weapons, they seized five pistols, cartridges and two two-way radios. A Criminal Investigation Department employee, was injured as he tried to fight back.

The body of Major Abasyan, a militiaman from Yerevan, who was seized by militants on August 12, was found in the Abovyanskiy district of Garni village.

Belorussian Officials To Stay in Emergency Area

NC2108143590 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] In a telegram to El'mira Kafarova, chairman of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet, (?Ishutin), head of the operations group of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs in the state of emergency region in the Azerbaijan SSR, said that the members of the operations group assigned to the state of emergency region by the organs of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs held a general meeting and unanimously decided to continue contributing to the interrepublican support for the efforts to establish law and order.

(?Ishutin) also noted that the employees of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs expressed their appreciation for the concern and attention they have received from the people of Azerbaijan. He said that the employees are serving in the state of emergency region in an honorable and conscientious way. He added that they have conveyed their decision to the chairman of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet and to the staff of all internal affairs organs in the state of emergency region.

Central Asia

Oblast Officials Elected in Kazakhstan

LD2008195690 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Kazakh 1400 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] As has already been reported, Turgay Oblast in the republic has been restored. On 20 August a meeting of the oblast party economic aktiv took place at its center, Arkalyk town, in which Comrade Nazarbeyev, president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] and first secretary of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan Central Committee, spoke. [passage omitted]

Today there was a plenum of the Turgay Oblast Party Committee, in which it examined an organizational matter. Ukin was elected as first secretary of the Turgay Oblast Party Committee. He had been working as chairman of the Kustanay Oblast Executive Committee. A session of the oblast soviet of people's deputies was held. Kugayev, was elected to the post of acting chairman of the oblast executive committee. Previously he worked as first deputy chairman of the Tselinograd Oblast Executive Committee.

Kazakh Presidium Restores Oblast Borders

LD2008155290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The presidium of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision on the restoration of Turgay Oblast to its former boundaries, with the center in the town of Arkalyk.

The oblast party economic aktiv met here today. Afterward, the Turgay Oblast party committee plenum examined an organizational issue. Utkin, former Kustanay oblast executive committee chairman, was elected oblast committee first secretary. Nazarbayev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Kazakh CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the plenum.

Tselinograd Sets Up Housing Construction Groups

PM2008132590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Report by F. Dzhakushev from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] By developing individual housing construction, the Tselinograd City Soviet Executive Committee has increased the volume of commissioned housing tenfold over the past two years alone.

[Reporter] A beautiful own detached house on the outskirts of the city. Which city dweller does not dream about this? In Tselinograd, in many people's case, this is no longer wishful thinking but present-day reality. Detached houses costing between 20,000-40,000 rubles [R] are currently being built by the collectives of many of the city's organizations.

In 1987, when the implementation of the "Housing-1991" program had only just begun, the city soviet executive committee focused on construction cooperatives which had sprung up in the city. Accepting the client's order and funds, such a cooperative takes care of everything, including construction materials and machinery and, most importantly, it ensures the completion of the construction project within a short time.

[N.P. Tikhonyuk, deputy chairman of the city soviet executive committee] The experience gained by the first such cooperative, in cooperation with the city soviet cost estimate department, in the construction of individual housing showed us that it was necessary to press on with this work and proceed toward the establishment of a municipal association. This association has been set up.

[Reporter] The eight cooperatives making up this small-scale production and construction association take care of the entire housing construction from the planning stage to handing over the keys. All the client has to do is sign a contract and settle the invoice. Naturally R20,000 or even 40,000 is a sizeable sum.

[Tikhonyuk] Usually enterprises cover 50 percent of the cost.

[Reporter] You mean the enterprises where people work?

[Tikhonyuk] Yes, the enterprises where they are employed. It is possible to claim that virtually all the enterprises in Tselinograd have concluded contracts with their builders, as it were, to cover 50 percent of the construction costs.

[Reporter] Would you say that the market is preferable to no market?

[Tikhonyuk] Of course, the market is better.

East Kazakhstan Earthquake Damage Reported

PM1708102090 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 10 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Reporter] Another strong earthquake occurred 3 August with its epicenter in virtually the same place—near Lake Zaysan—as the earthquake registering force 8.0 that struck one and a half months ago has exacerbated the already very serious situation in Kurchumskiy, Markakolskiy, Zaysanskiy, and Tarbagatayskiy Rayons in East Kazakhstan. Quality housing built just one month after the first earthquake in Tarbagatayskiy Rayon withstood the second quake—which cannot be said of older buildings. Currently 500 people have been left homeless here. Moreover, the tragedy has been exacerbated by organizational confusion. [video shows construction workers, equipment] There is a shortage of materials, equipment, and the transportation to deliver them. Teams that have arrived to help out have been standing idle for a week. The republic awaits effective help from the Union government.

Kirghiz Party Second Plenum Planned 25 Aug

LD2008193490 Frunze Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A session of the Kirghizia Communist Party Central Committee Bureau has been held. It examined matters relating to a routine plenum of the Kirghizia Communist

Party Central Committee, and decided to convene the second plenum of the Central Committee on 25 August this year. The bureau endorsed the paramount organizational and propaganda measures by the Kirghizia Communist Party Central Committee to implement the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress. It discussed measures to regulate the structure of some mass media, their founders and publishers. A resolution of the Central Committee Bureau on this matter will be published in the party press. A plan of work for the Kirghizia Communist Party Central Committee Bureau for the coming five months was approved. The bureau also examined other matters relating to party construction.

Osh Obkom Meets, Focuses on Personnel Changes

PM2108132590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by A. Ryabushkin: "Obkom Plenum During Curfew"]

[Text] Osh, Kirghiz SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]—Without asking for official authorization from the oblast commandant, an oblast party committee [obkom] plenum was held in Osh, although such events have been banned for other sociopolitical organizations.

The agenda of the plenum, which allocated a special place to measures to improve and stabilize the situation, was somehow not in keeping with the armed patrols and the helicopter hovering over the obkom building.

U. Sydykov, obkom first secretary, delivered a report which contained virtually everything—social problems, distortions in cadre policy, recriminations directed at ideologists, and the cheerful assurance that "we will deal a firm and resolute rebuff." Only a political assessment of the oblast party organization's activity was missing.

The speech delivered by A. Dzhumagulov, chairman of the Kirghiz SSR Council of Ministers, who is in charge of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee commission investigating the events in Osh, was similar.

Were it not for a number of sincere, truthful speeches made with heavy hearts, one might have thought that the gathering was only interested in redistributing posts.

Organizational questions were dealt with in an orderly fashion. Two options were proposed: either that all members of the oblast bureau be dismissed or that the number two and the ideology secretary be relieved of their posts. First Secretary U. Sydykov said: "I will quit. But give me a vote of confidence or no-confidence." He was abandoned, and others were also denied confidence. Even the oblast's chief ideologist, who said in a fit of frankness from the rostrum that there is no Communist ideology at all.

Everything that happened in the obkom's assembly hall is different from the processes taking place in life. There is still tension in society, people in the oblast's collectives are being divided up according to their nationality, and refugees are returning home under increased protection by troops and militia.

Tajik Party Central Committee Meets 20 Aug

Discusses Party Rules

LD2008100790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A plenum of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee is being held in Dushanbe today. The results of the 28th CPSU Congress, the tasks facing the republic's party organization, and the draft rules of the Tajik Communist Party are under discussion. The dates of the second part of the 21st congress of the republic's Communist Party have also to be decided.

Second Secretary Replaced

LD2008201790 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Today the routine [number indistinct] plenum of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party was held. Its agenda included the following questions:

on the results of the 28th CPSU Congress and tasks of the party organizations of the republic;

on the concluding stage of the 21st congress of the Tajik Communist Party;

on the draft rules of the Tajik Communist Party;

on the draft provisions for the Central Commission of the Tajik Communist Party;

on the principles for building the structure of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party;

on the draft status of members of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party;

on measures to implement the critical observations and proposals addressed by delegates of the 21st Tajik Communist Party Congress to the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party.

A report on the first and second questions on the agenda and information on the draft rules of the Tajik Communist Party and other normative documents was delivered by Comrade Makhkamov, member of the Politburo, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party. [passage omitted]

It was decided to hold the second stage of the 21st congress of the Tajik Communist Party on 29 September 1990.

The plenum approved the draft rules and other normative documents, and resolved that they be presented for confirmation to the second stage of the 21st Tajik

Communist Party Congress. It is intended to publish these draft documents for broad discussion in party organizations.

The plenum examined an organizational question. In connection with his transfer to other work, Comrade Veselkov was released from his duties as member of the bureau and second secretary of the Central Committee of the Tajik Communist Party. Comrade Turgunov, was elected member of the bureau and second secretary of the Central Committee.

Taking part in the work of the plenum was Comrade Dolgushkin, a senior official in the CPSU Central Committee.

Tajik Supreme Soviet Session Convenes 21 Aug

Debate on Sovereignty Expected

LD2108155290 Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT 21 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Nina Merezhnikova]

[Text] Dushanbe August 21 TASS—A regular session of the Supreme Soviet of Soviet Tajikistan opened today in its capital, Dushanbe. During the session that will last for ten days Tajik parliamentarians will discuss and adopt a number of important laws. The debate on the draft declaration on the state sovereignty of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic is expected to be very heated. The need to adopt this document is dictated by the socio-political situation in the country.

Many Union republics declared their sovereign rights. The government draft law proclaims political and democratic independence within a renewed Soviet federation.

The alternative draft declaration was proposed by Tajikistan's democratic party which recently announced its foundation.

It proposes the republic's sovereignty within a confederation of independent states, not a federation.

There is another substantial difference: the draft of the Democratic Party envisages depolitisation of judiciary bodies, the KGB, the interior ministry and the Army.

The draft law on the property in the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic was also submitted to the session. The package includes legislative acts on lease holding and the republic's legislation on land.

Tajikistan's parliament is to work out measures to stabilise the flow of the Russian-speaking population out of the republic. Because of the aggravation of the ethnic relations, about 36,000 people left Tajikisatn from the beginning of this year. Sociologists predict that unless the pace of the outflow decreases, the figure will reach 80,000 by the end of the year.

Makhkamov Notes Work

LD2108220390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Report by correspondent M. Nikulin from Dushanbe; from "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Nikulin] Over 25 issues have been included in the agenda of the second session [of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet]. The deputies to the new parliament are to examine and adopt such laws as the laws on ownership, leasing, local self-administration, local management, and Tajikstan's state sovereignty, which are very important for the republic today, to approve agreements on economic, scientific and technical and cultural cooperation between the Uzbek, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tajik, and Turkmen Union Republics and to sum up the implementation of the decision on urgent measures for improving the situation of women, protecting motherhood and childhood, and strengthening the family.

[K.M.Makhkamov, chairman of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet] The 13 standing commissions of the new parliament have started work. One must mention that work in a new way has naturally caused certain difficulties because everything that was done in legislation before the latest elections, before this parliament, was, in essence, an adaptation to the republican laws of what had been adopted in the Union. There was no creative work in legislation here. A number of republican draft laws have been prepared for the session. Of course, they are based on Union laws but they take account of local features, which the union law has not taken into consideration. This is particularly relevant to two laws we are going to adopt, a law on ownership and a law on leasing. Serious debates are expected around the draft declaration of Tajik SSR sovereignty. One should say the draft declaration has been elaborated with the participation of a great number of scientists, representatives of working people and people's deputies; however, an alternative draft declaration has been published, too. I think that, following a discussion, people's deputies will choose the optimum version of our republic needs.

Tajik MVD Reports On Illegal Arms Transfer

90US1252A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 14 Aug 90 p 4

[Article by H. Kozlova under the rubric "Crisis Situation": "Hunt for Weapons"]

[Text] *On a late August night somebody telephoned the Tajik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] department that was on call that night. The caller had seen several servicemen carry some crates and parcels out of the military unit premises located on a suburban sovkhoz [state farm]. They buried them all in a cotton field.*

A group of police officers went to the field after the call and started to search it in complete darkness. The caller was correct. The officers first came across a tightly packed soldier's bag and later found two sealed metal boxes. The contents were identical: cartridges for Kalashnikov submachine guns—a total of 4,800. The armed ambush left in the field caught two servicemen and a civilian car that night. The next morning police officers relayed the information about the event to the military procuracy. Together they went to the site again and discovered that there was more than their nocturnal find. They found almost 5,000 cartridges more hidden near a fuel tank.

The summoned MVD operations group was literally shocked by the discipline in the unit. It was late at night, but the soldiers were "strolling" around...

Currently the major portion of standard military weapons is supplied to criminals by the military themselves. These weapons threaten peaceful communities but they often hit the uniformed forces themselves, and that makes the situation even more tragic. In July of this year a certain Safarov killed a man using a modified flare pistol. During a search of his house a carbine and cartridges for it were also found. Safarov admitted that he stole the carbine from the military unit where he had served.

Captain Andrey Levshin, a senior criminal expert, was on scheduled duty that evening. The emergency call came at about 1100: A body had been found in the Friendship Among Nations Park. As it happened a gang of hoodlums, going crazy with nothing to do, could not pass by a dating couple. The young man tried to defend his girlfriend as bravely as he could until he was stopped by a bullet through his back. Death was instantaneous. But the bandits admitted later that they were not sure he was dead and so they continued kicking him hard for a long time. The police found the handgun nearby; it was a crude homemade creation held together with insulation tape. You had to fire it point-blank to be able to kill with it.

Viktor Popov brought two homemade revolvers to the republic. He needed them to exchange for narcotics. When he was detained, by the way, a kilo and a half of drugs were found on him apart from the weapons. The police traced the guns to the Kirov plant in Leningrad, where they found four more "rods" made on the side. A chance to use these four had not yet arisen. But a worker of the Dushanbe transformer plant K. Shukurov became the victim of one of the two guns he had made on the side when he tried to carry them out of the plant. A spontaneous firing occurred as he stepped out of the entrance gate checkpoint.

The criminals are also well served by weapons that ceased being used a long time ago. They are often found in the ground or in condemned houses; very often the guns are in good repair and can function well. Many people get killed by bullets fired from personalized guns. The numbers of civil and Great Patriotic War heroes are getting smaller and smaller. After their death, their personalized guns often begin miraculous journeys and unfortunately end up in the hands of those who need guns to commit crimes.

In these disturbing times, prices of and demand for weapons are soaring fantastically. Some five or six months ago among criminals one could have a Kalashnikov submachine gun for 1,000 rubles [R]. Now you cannot even have it for R5,000. Not even the people whose duty it is to know such things can cite at least an approximate figure of how many weapons are possessed by criminals. When I started my work on the newspaper, ammunition and weapons were mentioned in police reports from time to time and were entered there as extraordinary events. Now it is a rare report that does not say "a sawn-off gun found," "the number of confiscated cartridges...," "at gunpoint," etc.

This past summer an MVD search group found a plantation of opium poppies in one of the oblasts. A search group is a big name for just four people. But there were a lot more camouflaged guards there. The police officers were met with gunshots.

Criminals are searching for guns, and find them. The police are doing the same, but as a rule criminals have more luck. The range of opinions is immense concerning what we should do now and how we can continue living in the situation which is worsening from day to day. Some people demand nonrestricted arms sales so that they can protect their lives. Many people suggest that the legal punishment for storing, stealing, or using weapons should be made much more severe. Each of the proposals has its attractive sides. But the internal affairs organs strongly protest open arms sales. However, it is easy to understand people's point of view: Why can criminals own weapons while I have nothing to defend my life with? is what they think. But it should not be hard to deduce, I think, what that can lead to.

"Who could imagine," MVD officials said after the interethnic conflict in Kirghizia's Osh Oblast, "the incredible number of firearms each side had!"

The interethnic conflicts helped to reveal most plainly that mass possession of firearms results in thousands of casualties and can turn local conflicts into something close to civil war. Unrestricted gun sales allowing one to defend one's life and honor can be found in some Western countries, but experts who deal with those issues consider that they do not prove anything. More so, the police are quite assured that in the final run countries allowing gun sales will end up confiscating arms from the people. They consider the defense of people's lives, their honor and dignity to be the primary duty of the state.

In mid-summer the capital of Tajikistan was shocked by one more report of a bandit attack. A bus belonging to the Dushanbe industrial cotton association was carrying the payroll to their rayon branch. The bus had barely pulled away from the entrance gate checkpoint when it stopped, in violation of every rule and regulation, to give a ride to some of their workers. At that moment a stranger jumped onto the bus and grabbed all the money, threatening them with a revolver.

A few months before this a car was seen driving around the streets of the republic's capital whose passenger kept shooting at pedestrians. The police managed to apprehend him.

These stories sound terrifying, but they occurred in an area considered generally quiet from the point of view of gun usage. "Only" 26 firearms are being searched for. During both last year and this year 85 firearms-related crimes were committed. Fortunately, the republic has not yet advanced to the point where they fight with grenade launchers and flame-throwers as in some really hot spots. However, the situation in Tajikistan is not improving, nor is it even stabilizing.

One more report came to the MVD press center: "An armed group of visiting criminals was apprehended in Khodzhentskiy Rayon. They attacked M. Khasanov, manager of store No. 23. They also extorted money from people with threats."

"The Abdulloyev brothers, a storage facility manager and a construction and maintenance administration worker, were arrested. They had used guns to intimidate a restaurant chef. Firearms were found during the search. The group had committed three thefts, two robberies, and another attempted theft."

Had we been able to hear every shot fired by the criminals in the country we would have gone deaf from the racket, I am sure. As we build a rule-of-law, humane state we can stop the shooting only if we utilize all the existing resources and employ none other than professionals to do so.

Tajikistan Experiences Motor Fuel Shortage

PM1808150490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Report by M. Nikulin on motor fuel shortages in Tajikistan; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] A difficult situation has arisen in the Tajik national economy as a result of shortages of motor fuel.

[Reporter] Because of a lack of fuel, all the equipment is standing idle in machine yards. And that at the height of the harvest, on the eve of the cotton picking season.

But not only rural areas are suffering. There is virtually no traffic on the high-altitude road linking Dushanbe with rayons in the Pamir mountains, despite the fact that they can be supplied with national economic goods only during the summer months.

Meanwhile dozens of filling stations are chockablock with vehicles. Drivers are waiting two to three days for the gasoline to arrive. But there is none. The tanks of the Dushanbe petroleum base are empty. The causes of this strained situation are old—suppliers' irresponsible attitude toward their contract commitments. In July alone petroleum refineries in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan failed to deliver 30,000 tonnes of fuel to Tajikistan. This situation repeats itself from quarter to quarter, from year to year. Is it really not possible to solve the gasoline problem? Is the republic which has no petroleum or refineries of its own doomed to suffer for ever? [passage omitted]

Turkmen Supreme Soviet Discusses Sovereignty

LD2008162490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Among the very important issues in political life to be discussed at the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet session, which opened today, most attention is being attracted by the draft declaration on the republic's state sovereignty. The draft, published in the press on the eve of the session, has provoked mass response. The large number of letters addressed to the Supreme Soviet, which have been received by the republic's mass media, testifies to this. Many proposals on amendments and addenda to a number of articles in the draft received from the electorate have been heard today during the draft's discussion. The draft declaration strengthens the equality in law of all the republic's citizens irrespective of origin, nationality, education, language, religion, or any other circumstances. Several other issues were also considered during the first day of the session's work.

Turkmen Leader Views White Elephant Refinery

LD1608180190 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 16 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Akhmedov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Turkmen SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] has had a working tour of Chardzhou Oblast. [video shows Akhmedov and entourage visiting oil facilities]

Comrade Akhmedov spent a considerable part of his working day at the construction site of Chardzhou oil refinery, a construction site with a really dramatic story. It began at a time when oil was gushing from the depths in the Karakums and it seemed that it would go on for ever. But in the past two decades its extraction has decreased sharply. The half-built refinery had to be redesigned to take oil from southwest Siberia. About two years ago a test batch arrived here along the pipeline from Tyumenia. But there has still been no refined output. The refinery's heat and power supply station is just not being completed, and what technology can there be without steam or electricity?

Kirilov, deputy minister of power engineering of the USSR, construction site managers, and representatives of sub-contracting organizations, took part in a meeting chaired by Khan Akhmedovich Akhmedov. The facility with which sensible people usually begin a construction project should be handed over for use by the end of this year.

Things are going somewhat better at another construction site which is near completion, a cotton spinning factory. When it is brought into use a proportion of the fine fiber cotton will for the first time be actually processed within the republic, where population is now discussing a draft declaration on economic sovereignty.

Foreign Economy Bank Established in Uzbekistan

LD2008101190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Summary] A republican vneshekonombank [foreign currency bank] has been set up in Uzbekistan. More than 100 enterprises have already become members. The bank will help in acquiring technologies and equipment abroad. Several leading banks in Asian countries have agreed to cooperate with it.